



## Kabuki's here. Where's Noh?

Page 8



## Bars, cafes at campus crossroads

Pages 16-19

# Swan song for singer



IC Photo

Luciano Pavarotti, whose vibrant high Cs and ebullient showmanship made him the most beloved tenor since Caruso and one of the few opera singers to win crossover fame as a popular superstar, died yesterday at age 71.

His manager Terri Robson said that Pavarotti died at his home in Modena, Italy, at 5am local time. Pavarotti was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year and treated in August.

"The Maestro fought a long, tough battle against pancreatic cancer which eventually took his life ... He remained positive until finally succumbing to the last stages of his illness," he said.

Speaking from inside the singer's home, his assistant Edwin Tinoco told Sky TG 24 television that Pavarotti's final days were calm and spent at home.

"Nessun Dorma" was Pavarotti's last performance, sung at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, in February 2006.

(AP)

## Foundation cries foul on horse head auction

By Gan Tian

China's Lost Cultural Relics Recovery Program (RRP) voiced strong opposition to the coming Sotheby's Hong Kong auction of a bronze horse head pilfered from Yuanmingyuan, a ruined imperial garden.

A spokesman for the foundation said this Tuesday the auction will upset the country, which claims ownership of stolen cultural relics. The China Foundation for the Development of Folklore Culture (CFDFC) holds that world culture heritage should be returned to where it belongs.

Any auction company with basic professional ethics wouldn't put up cultural relics stolen or lost in war, a CFDFC spokesman said.

"They are starting the bronze horse head at HK\$60 million - is

it a joke? We must reclaim all cultural relics lost overseas, but being made to buy them back is not right," Xie Chensheng, president of Chinese Society of Cultural Relics, said.

"I'm sure there will be a lot of [patriotic feelings] within China ... but I do not believe this time round the outcry will be as severe," Kevin Ching, Sotheby's Asia CEO, told Reuters. "That China's growing affluence and ranks of antique collectors are keen to buy back historical heritage suggests the likely buyer will be Chinese."

The statue currently belongs to a collector in Taiwan, which means it may remain in China. Placing it on auction risks losing the head to a foreign collector, and chances of recovery will be slim, a CFDFC spokesman said. CFDFC also fears that malicious bid-

ders could drive the price beyond the reach of interested mainland parties.

The horse head, one of twelve zodiac heads which formerly decorated the Yuanmingyuan water-clock fountain, is likely to fetch US\$10 million at the Autumn 2007 Auction to be held on October 9.

Currently, the tiger, monkey, ox and boar heads are on display at a local museum. The rat and rabbit heads remain in private collections in Europe.

China's RRP recovered the boar's head from foreign collectors in September 2003 with a 6 million yuan donation from He Hongshen of Macao.

Since the Opium War of 1840, 164 million Chinese cultural relics have been lost overseas.





# Pig prices remain porked up

By Huang Daohen

Pork prices that have driven this year's full-year inflation to a ten-year high will continue until next year, Bi Jingquan, Vice-Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, said Tuesday at a press conference.

"The shortage of pigs will not change until the second quarter of next year," Bi told a press conference at the State Council Information Office.

There are reasons, he said,

behind the price hikes. Continually falling global grain production and increased corn consumption due to elevated oil prices has contributed to a surge in market grain prices.

An outbreak of blue ear pig disease, which kills pigs and causes sows to miscarry, has further elevated prices, Bi said. The government has tried to contain the spread of disease with a massive campaign of culling and vaccination, he said.

"Although price hikes of pork and related governmental policy

incentives have encouraged farmers to breed more pigs, raising a pig still takes time," Bi said.

However, the Vice-Chairman said there is no threat of high inflation despite recent steep rises in food price. Though the number of live pigs for sale has decreased, the output of beef, mutton, poultry and eggs has been on the rise this year.

"That is to say, the supply of non-staple food is sufficient, which will curb the price hike of pork to

some extent," he said.

The Vice-Chairman ruled out the possibility of pork prices easing with imports. Bi said China produced 53 percent of the world's total pork last year. It imported 30,000 tons and exported 95,000 tons through July this year.

"Because China is the world's largest pork producer, the country is unlikely to import pork by millions of tons every year. There is simply no country that could satisfy that demand," Bi said.

## BOCOG collects children's smiles

The Organizing Committee for the Beijing Olympic Games (BOCOG) on Wednesday began the process of collecting smiles of children across the world that will be displayed at the opening and closing ceremonies during the 2008 Games.

Applicants may submit up to five photos of one child and are allowed to offer photos of different children before April 30 next year, said a BOCOG official in charge of the opening and closing ceremonies.

The photos must be color and with a resolution no lower than five million pixels. Children under age 10 are preferred.

The official said that BOCOG might make changes to the photos without "damaging the integrity of smiling faces," and would decide whether and how to use the photos in the opening and closing ceremonies, broadcasting and other Olympic Games' publications.

The official said BOCOG would not disclose how the photos will be used in the ceremonies to ensure the "novelty" of the idea would be retained.

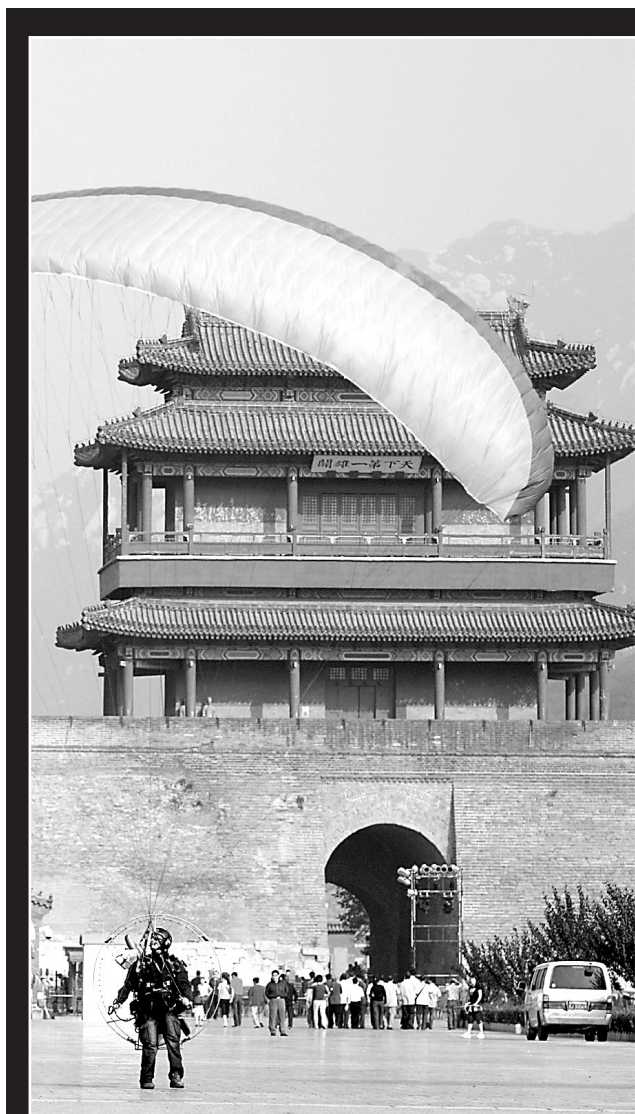
Applicants must fill in a form, which can be downloaded from the official website for the Beijing Olympic Games (beijing2008.cn), before sending CDs containing the photos to BOCOG'S "Smiling Faces Collection Office."

Last month, Chinese film director Zhang Yimou, who is masterminding the 2008 Olympic opening and closing ceremonies, said he plans to collect 10,000 children's smiles for the opening ceremony.

"We will collect the smiles of children of different regions, colors and races all over the world," Zhang told Xinhua.

"We will display these smiles at the opening ceremony, after our artistic processing, to complement the theme of the Games: One World, One Dream," he said.

(Xinhua)



## Gliding over the Great Wall

Over 120 pilots from around the world participated in the Fifth World Paragliding Championships 2007 at Juyongguan Pass on the Great Wall yesterday, the first held in an Asian country.

CFP Photo

## City gov aims for disabled-friendly

By He Jianwei

One third of the disabled people in the city have received rehabilitation services, an official with the Beijing Disabled Persons' Federation has revealed Wednesday.

Among the city's 999,000 disabled people, as many as 300,000 have received services, and 100,000 of them have been given medical care, including cataract operations and prosthesis, as well as language training, Zhao Chunlun, president of the Beijing Disabled Persons' Federation, said.

As many as 98.9 percent of disabled children have been enrolled in special education programs in school as part of compulsory education, Zhao said.

Zhao said 85 percent of disabled people old enough to be employed have found a job, with 21,000 of them working at welfare enterprises. There are as many as 1,700 blind people working as masseurs working in 308 massage departments, and the employment rate among the blind is at 95 percent.

The city has expanded its facilities for the disabled to 95,000 square meters from 10,000 square meters in 1998, she said.

A plan executed during the last three years has built accessible facilities in transport hubs, railway stations, subway lines, hotels, hospitals, shopping centers and supermarkets, Cao Yuejin, commissioner of the Municipal Commission of Urban Planning, said.

Beijing's line five subway will begin operations this month, and will offer handrails and lifts in all 23 stations, he said.

The city government has put 275 accessible buses into operation, and another 50 large buses are coming soon, he said.

## 200 territories gear up for women's FIFA

By Chu Meng

The biggest women's football competition will reach another milestone when it kicks off in Shanghai, September 10.

The fifth FIFA Women's World Cup, returning to its birthplace, is expected to reach new heights in global TV viewership. Women's football has gained a passionate following outside of its traditional hotbeds over the last decade, underscored by as many as 200 territories covered by the TV rights holders across all confederations, including countries such as Vanuatu and American Samoa, Canada, Burundi, Ghana, Germany and England – to name but a few.

This represents not only an increase of one fourth in terms of transmission to territories compared to 2003, but also significant growth in the number of broadcasters in the various regions with sometimes up to three TV stations in the same country covering the competition live.

"The impressive interest of broadcasters and the extent of coverage of the FIFA Women's World Cup makes us very proud about what has been achieved over the last decade, particularly with regard to the level of play. I am convinced the performances of the 16 teams over the next three weeks will further enhance this trend," Worawi Makudi, chairman of the Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup and a member of the FIFA Executive Committee, said.

Only eight years ago, the FIFA Women's World Cup 1999 was broadcast in 67 countries. By 2003, the TV audience grew to 144 territories, covering nearly 3,000 hours of tournament play with a total cumulative TV audience of 526 million viewers worldwide.

It is not just television audiences for women's football that have grown. Research in 2006 revealed that as many as 26 million women, ten percent of all players, actively play the game.

## Upgraded subway cars enter service in Beijing

By Huang Daohen

Beijing will replace all subway cars running on its two downtown routes, line 1 and line 2, with new ones before next June, a Beijing Metro spokesman said Wednesday.

The replacement program will change 264 subway cars in preparation for next year's Beijing Olympics.

Beijing Metro, operator of the city's 200-kilometer urban rail network, said it will put 120 new subway cars on Line 1, the

trunk route running through the city from the east to the west and passing Tian'anmen Square. Another 144 new cars will be running on Line 2, the loop line around the city proper.

The first of the new cars has arrived in Beijing, and the company conducted a 5,000-kilometer test run Wednesday to check safety, a spokesman said.

The new subway cars are air-conditioned, have better ventilation, LED screens to display weather information and Olympic

event outcomes, and can accommodate a maximum of 1,820 people, he said.

Handicapped tourists will be able to use the new system, since each car offers four wheelchair lifts and wheelchair-designated space to facilitate travel. An additional 2,500 handicapped-accessible buses will be running by the end of the year.

As for the retired subway cars, the spokesman said some might be auctioned following a precedent set by previous suc-

cessful auctions.

Prospective buyers indicated they would convert the cars into waste receptacles or more interesting projects, such as turning them into bars, restaurants and hotels.

Last year, the Beijing government earmarked four billion yuan to boost public transport and ease congestion. By 2010, the government hopes that 40 percent of citizens will choose public transport as their primary means of transportation.



# Sichuan's sex talk radio shows banned

By Jiang Xubo

Four sex talk radio shows in Sichuan Province were shut down by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT), Wednesday.

The three-hour talk shows, featuring sex-themed topics like sex life, experiences and sexual organs, are accused of exaggerating the effects of sex-enhancing drugs every

evening after nine o'clock, putting impressionable teens at risk, a Wednesday notice posted to SARFT's website said.

The shows tarnished the reputation of the television and broadcast industry, it said.

SARFT demanded a halt to the shows and asked the two broadcast stations, Sichuan Radio Station and Chengdu Radio Station,

to investigate the cases and punish the offenders.

The authority has asked all levels of radio and TV stations across the country to ban programs, which go against moral and scientific norms. Radio and TV stations are not permitted to produce or broadcast more sex-themed programs.

Authorities called on local radio

and TV-governing bodies to launch a nation-wide campaign to eliminate content they consider harmful for teenagers, and demanded an inspection of all current programs.

The ban followed the termination of A New Date With Beauty, a reality program in Guangdong Province that showed plastic surgery operations and a ban on shows featuring "public participation" in

sex-change operations.

Sex-themed adverts and programs on the air drew similar criticism this summer because of increased viewing by children on summer holiday.

As many as 2,200 radio stations and some 2,390 TV stations are broadcast within China, according to SARFT's annual media report issued last September.

## Massacre cartoon falls on financial hard times

By Huang Daohen

Scholars and artists from Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai trying to produce an animated cartoon about the Nanjing massacre have encountered financial difficulties.

The director Zhang Jun, 53, a professor from the Communications University of China, said it has been a difficult summer due to delays in receiving sponsors' funds. Zhang has privately spent nearly 400,000 yuan, 200,000 of which was borrowed from friends. "If the money doesn't come in time, I will have to sell my house," Zhang said.

To produce the cartoon, Nanjing 1937, based on the Nanjing Massacre, the group began collaborating last year using computers and the Internet.

The script was completed in 2006 and approved by the State Administration of Radio and Film in January, making it the only one of its kind approved at the time, Zhang said.

How to portray the grim historical details in a cartoon is a matter of public concern. Zhang said all the images of the Nanjing massacre used were shot by American missionary John Magee.

The image data is presented in documentary style, and it is impossible to shoot a real movie of the events without a time machine, which is why Zhang said animation can more accurately preserve the historical record.

Zhang said to create this film is a historical responsibility rather than a commercial act. "I was born in the 1950s. People in my generation were imbued with a deep sense of responsibility to preserve this history," Zhang said. "Honestly, I do not think there is a good market for this cartoon."

The 1980s generation is more familiar with US and Japanese cartoons. Zhang said his work is a departure from everything they know, in that it is serious and not produced for entertainment value.

Zhang planned to complete the film before November and get it in theaters by December 13, the 70th anniversary of the massacre. "Though we are short on funds, we still hope we can finish before the anniversary. Our project's hard times are only just beginning," he said.

## Chimneys demolished to curb pollution

Two chimneys and the Weishanhu coalpower factory were demolished Wednesday with explosives as part of the Shandong provincial government's plan to remove as many as 120 coalpower engines to save coal and curb air pollution.

CFP Photo



## More rehabilitation centers for drug abusers

China says it plans to construct 70 rehabilitation centers for recovered drug addicts about to return to society.

A total of 420 million yuan will be invested in the construction of the centers, up from 92.22 million yuan last year, according to a statement released from a national work meeting held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, on Tuesday.

China currently has only eight such centers, at which more than 900 people have been working in exchange for pocket money, free board and

lodging and counseling.

Police data shows that the number of drug takers in China grew 35 percent from 2000 to early 2005 to hit 1.16 million.

The number dropped to 720,400 in last August as a result of compulsory rehabilitation measures and strict checks on chemicals and narcotics, a spokesman for the Ministry of Public Security said.

Yunnan, which borders Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, has long been used by drug traders as a transit place to

transport drugs from the infamous Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia to inland China.

The southwestern Chinese province is already home to four rehabilitation centers.

Statistics from the Yunnan Provincial Bureau of Public Security show there were more than 50,000 registered drug takers in the province by late last year, but it witnessed a drop of 6.6 percent in the total number of drug takers in the first half of this year.

(Xinhua)

## Fapiao dealers feign pregnancy, escape detention

By Annie Wei

A dozen women caught selling counterfeit fapiao at Beijing Railway Station attempted to escape detention by claiming to be pregnant. Urine tests at the police station confirmed five of the women were pregnant.

The sight is a common one in town: several women with their children or who appear pregnant approach disembarking passengers to hawk fapiao, official business receipts.

Such receipts are used with companies to reimburse employees for business expenses. In some businesses, employees are paid based on how many receipts

they submit, and some submit false receipts to claim money for things they never purchased. The counterfeit fapiao business has spawned an industry where women often borrow young children from their hometowns to pose as mothers.

When caught by local police, a dozen women among 37, claimed they were pregnant. Under Chinese law, pregnant women or those breast feeding are given special treatment after arrest.

"If a pregnant woman or one still breast feeding is arrested, we have to appeal to a higher authority to detain them if we

can prove she committed the crime. Illegal acts like selling counterfeit fapiao usually aren't worth the trouble — they just pay the fine and get released. That's why many of them claimed to be pregnant," Zhuo Fengtong, a police officer from Haidian District, said.

More than 30,000 counterfeit fapiao were found in the women's possession. Four of the children below school age and two of the babies were found to be borrowed. The five pregnant women and two breast feeding were released with a warning. The remaining women are being detained.

## Brief news

### 28 cases of dengue fever

The country filed 28 cases of dengue fever in eight provinces and municipalities by the end of July, a spokesman for the Ministry of Health said Tuesday.

### 400 polluters shut down

By mid-August, the government shut down 400 of 1,160 companies and projects blacklisted as polluters since a July campaign to tackle water pollution, Pan Yue, vice director of the State Environmental Protection Administration, said this week.

### 109 struck dead by lightning

Lightning strikes killed 109 people and injured as many as 40 across the country last month, Zheng Guoguang, head of the China Meteorological Administration, said.

### 80 percent of farmers covered

The country's cooperative medical insurance system for rural areas, initiated in 2003 to offer basic health care to farmers, covered 720 million residents as of June, or as much as 80 percent of the country's rural population, Chen Zhu, minister of health, said Wednesday.

(By Jiang Xubo)





Fans help with trial games at the field Tuesday.

Photos by Tian Yufeng

By Jiang Xubo

Four fans, frustrated by scarce access to soccer fields in the capital finally got their own private fields. The three fields for five-player teams, which cost some 750,000 yuan, are not just any fields.

## Fans build private fields to quench soccer thirst

At 8pm, Tuesday, a dozen amateur players were still playing, running around and yelling for the ball. Shi Jiangyi, 34, one of the four investors, acted as the only referee, running back and forth with a whistle in his mouth. Few things could disturb him when he enjoyed the game. Yet, only a few months earlier, Shi and his friends were finding it difficult to locate a proper place to play.

### Big fans' own private fields

The soccer park, as Shi and his friends call it, is located in Dongba Village, east of the Fifth Ring Road. The park has three fields for five-player games, 20-by-40, covered with artificial turf and circled with wire nets. Surrounded by construction debris and weeds, the brand-new fields appear to be sort of a miracle – they were a deserted pond just two months ago.

Shi and his friends found the site, which belonged to the Dongdu Bath Center, last August after they searched the capital for months. It took almost eight months of negotiation to reach a rental contract, which charged the fans 100,000 yuan per year. And that was just the first step in building their own fields when they finally got the contract in late March.

"We had to fill the pond with earth first, and then pave it with concrete," Shi said. "What's more, we had no idea how to build a field. We had to go to professional fields nearby to find out how to set up the nets and the goal posts. We had to figure out all the details on our own."

Thanks to their connections to material providers and construction personnel, they had their fields up three months later. Shi, who spent most of his days and nights on the site supervising the construction, lost almost ten kilograms.

All their efforts paid off. Now, the fields are almost ready for the grand



Shi Jiangyi and Li Zhiguo shared passion for soccer, which drove them to build their own fields.

opening in early October.

"When the lights go on, and I watch them playing football on our fields, I really feel a sense of achievement," Shi said, "because we built the fields all by ourselves. And we took everything into account and got everything arranged, making it a comfortable place to offer to our friends. I feel really good when the players tell me they had an exciting game here."

And they did take almost everything into account. They'll remove the trash piles in a few days. A thousand cypress saplings are on their way to the fields. They've even built a tiny eatery at one end. One cook and two waitresses are standing by to serve homemade style dishes.

### Poor access to public fields

Shi Jianyi, Li Zhiguo, Wang Yanxin and Dai Haihong, all Beijing natives in their 30s, started playing football when they were teenagers. The sport brought together

more and more friends. Their community football team alone, the Xincheng team, currently has some 150 members. And in SOFA, the three-year-old community football league in which the Xincheng team claimed all its three championships, there are some 20 teams coming from many communities including Tiantongyuan and Wangjing.

Yet, as their passion for the games grew, Shi and his friends found it harder and harder to locate proper places to play. The soccer fields in Chaoyang Park, among the capital's some 28 soccer fields, used to be among the favorites. However, it was unavailable on many occasions.

"It's always difficult to get a field there. Sometimes you cannot play even if you have reserved the field, because you always have to step aside for VIPs. It is really annoying," Shi said, who had to accept the fact that they could not have a game even if all the

team members had assembled and were ready to play.

It was so difficult to get access to the fields that, when they did, they would play no matter the conditions. Shi and his friends eventually played a two-hour game last year, which started at 9pm, in Chaoyang Park.

They also tried fields on the capital's campuses, both middle schools and colleges, including the No 17 Middle School, the Beijing International Studies University and the Beijing University of Technology. Not all experiences turned out to be pleasant.

"The schools usually are quite strict with us, and we could only get access to campus fields on weekends and during vacation time," Li Zhiguo said. "By the way, the campuses usually charged no less than 800 yuan for a two-hour game. It is not cheap, and, the fields are too big for us. You see, few players at my age are capable of run-

ning around on fields built for 11-players."

### Why the scarcity

Part of the capital's plan to make Beijing an international sports center, which was issued in 2003, aims at facilitating organizations and individuals to start fields that are open to the public, promising preferential measures to make it easy to get a license, land and bank loan.

The capital witnessed fitness centers springing up everywhere, funded by sports lotteries issued by the government. The number of fitness centers in the capital skyrocketed to over 5,360 by the end of 2005, since the government issued its plan in 2003.

Real estate developers were reluctant to build fields for fitness centers. One thousand residents in a community are entitled to 65 to 105 squares meters of land for sports and cultural use, according to the country's standard for new communities, yet the standards failed to describe detailed arrangements for the type and size of fields. Li Zhiguo, who moved to his new house in Chaoyang Xincheng in 2004, found only one fitness center in the community.

The public can still enjoy easier access to fields if all fields that belong to the capital's schools and enterprises are opened to the public. The General Administration of Sport (GAS) and the Ministry of Education jointly launched a trial concept of opening fields on the capital's campuses. Campuses across the city own over 3,000 fields, including swimming pools and basketball fields, and account for almost half of the capital's total 6,100 standard fields, Sun Kanglin, chief of BMBS, said.

BMBS also issued a similar document in May in response to GAS' initial arrangement.





## Government response

Responding to a series of high-profile recalls and product safety scandals this year, the Chinese government announced a “special war” to crack down on low quality products.

### Gov starts recall systems for food

Beijing, September 4 (AP) – China’s first nationwide recall systems for unsafe food and toys came into effect in one of the strongest steps taken by Beijing to clean up the country’s scandal-struck manufacturing industry.

The recall systems, put in place by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine, follow an earlier system set up for defective cars in 2005.

They require manufacturers to stop production and sales, notify vendors and customers, and report to authorities when defects are found.

### Foreign media tours toy base

Guangzhou, September 5 (AP) – On the defensive after a series of embarrassing toy recalls, China’s government invited foreign journalists to visit factories Tuesday in hopes of repairing the image of toy makers battered by global worries about the “Made in China” label.

The tour in southern Guangdong province came after Mattel’s toy recall. Tuesday’s tour took journalists to two huge factories, a small plant and a government inspection center.

The Chinese factories on the tour had their own testing facilities.

### China declares ‘special war’ on shoddy goods

Shanghai, September 4 (iht.com) – The government said it had begun nationwide inspections of farms, groceries, restaurants and manufacturing operations to root out fake and substandard goods.

Regulators claim that in recent months, they have busted scores of counterfeit drug makers and unlicensed toy producers, and criminal networks that make everything from fake bird flu medicine and sham Viagra to counterfeit toothpaste.

*The Chinese government is being increasingly vigilant about product quality and safety inspection.*

# ‘Made in China’ label spurs global concern



*Product quality and safety is inspected throughout the production process.* CFP Photos

By Huang Daohen

As a leading exporter of many products, China takes pride in being the world’s factory. However, a spurt of tainted products and recalls involving goods and toys made in China has made global consumers uneasy.

In the past week, critics have labeled goods made in China as “shoddy” or “dangerous” amidst a government campaign to build up confidence.

## Objective media coverage

The issue of goods and food security requires objective media coverage, Li Changjiang, head of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, said in a recent TV interview.

Many foreign mediums have reported on unsafe Chinese products with wild abandon, and have gone as far as saying “white” is “black,” he said. “This, I think, is simply a new form of trade protectionism.”

Tainted goods have been found in goods imported to China, Li said. Last week, for instance, the government blocked imports of American wood packaging material after discovering they were contaminated by worms and other creatures.

Earlier this year, Chinese regulators rejected imports of American meat, Indonesian seafood and other products from Germany, France and Spain.

## Epidemic hype over safety

Hyping China’s food and product safety problem is an illness itself, the country’s new health minister Chen Zhu said Wednesday.

“We are certainly extremely sensitive towards this problem, but over-sensitivity caused by only seeing part of the picture, in medical terms, is called an allergy,” Chen said.

China is ready to work with the international community to tackle the issue, said Chen, a Paris-trained scientist who is not a member of the Communist Party.

## Fair play

The world is flat, but that doesn’t mean everything is evenly shared, He Jun, senior analyst stated in his review “Fair play for Made in China” in the Wall Street Journal’s online Chinese version. In the chain of globalization, developed markets enjoy cheap labor and low costs and gain the biggest chunk of the profits.

After years of enjoying cheap manufacturing, developed countries have suddenly seized on the idea that “Made in China” is dangerous, He said.

He said that if one wants to enjoy the benefits of globalization but none of the responsibility that goes with it, then the international game is over.

What China does or doesn’t do is no longer an internal issue – it affects the world. Fair treatment of the label is necessary for everyone to succeed.

## Media coverage

During the past week, China has been hit hard by increasingly frequent reports of dangerous food and other Chinese-made products being seized or recalled overseas.

### Mattel announces third toy recall

New York, September 5 (CNN) – The Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Mattel, announced a recall of 844,000 toys that contain excessive levels of lead paint Tuesday night – the third such recall of Chinese-manufactured toys by Mattel this summer.

In a statement issued by Mattel, the company apologized to consumers and said that it had spent more than 50,000 hours investigating its vendors and testing its toys. It said that 11 additional types of toys had been discovered that needed to be recalled.

Consumers are asked to stop using the affected toys immediately, according to the CPSC.

### Japan presses China over food safety

Sydney, September 5 (AFP) – Japan on Wednesday pressed China for a “full explanation” on measures to improve the safety of its food and other products following a spate of recalls, a Japanese official said.

The call came in a meeting between Akira Amari, Japan’s minister for economy, trade and industry, and Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai in Sydney on the margins of an Asia-Pacific summit.

### EU may ban unsafe Chinese-made goods

Brussels, September 5 (Thomson Financial) – The European Commission said yesterday it may ban Chinese-made goods deemed unsafe unless China demonstrates it is effectively dealing with dangerous products.

The European Union is not satisfied with the Chinese government’s response when it was alerted by the EU about dangerous Chinese-made goods, Commission spokeswoman for consumer issues Helen Kearns said.



# Airbus Aims to sell stake in A350 Project to China

Hong Kong (Bloomberg) – Airbus, the world's largest commercial-aircraft maker, said it aims to sell a stake in its project to develop the A350 passenger jet to China as early as this year.

The planemaker is offering

five percent of the project to China Aviation Industry Corp I and China Aviation Industry Corp II under a proposal in which they would invest and supply parts in exchange for a share of the gains once the airplane is sold.

"We are in active discussions with AVIC I and AVIC II," Laurence Barron, Airbus's chief in China, said in a presentation today at the Asian Aerospace International Expo & Congress in Hong Kong. "We're hoping to

bring this to a close by the end of this year, if not by the Chinese New Year."

Airbus is controlled by European Aeronautic Defence & Space Co and counts Boeing Co of Chicago as its main competitor.

## McDonald's raises pay in China

By Huang Daoheng

US fast food giant McDonald's raised 95 percent of employees' salaries in its 815 China outlets, including part-timers, September 1, the company's China Headquarter announced recently.

The McDonald's China crew will see a pay increase of 12-56 percent, Xinhua news agency reported, citing Jeffrey Schwartz, McDonald's chief executive for China.

The wage raise involves 45,000 full-time and part-time workers, including students. Full-time workers will have their monthly wage raised 21 percent to 1,072 yuan.

"We have raised employees' salaries in China many times, but this is the first time there is such a large increase covering so many people," Schwartz said.

Beijing Today reported earlier this year that McDonald's and KFC restaurants were accused of violating China's Labor Law by under-paying part-timers, mostly college students, to cut costs.

Though the local authorities in Guangdong Province said in June that McDonald's complied with government regulations, the issue has cast a cloud over their image.

Still, Schwartz said that the company's decision has nothing to do with the bad press. "We have been looking at a wage increase for a year. The issue [reports of low pay] only reminded us that we need to move more quickly."

Yum! Brands, a rival also accused of under-paying and which operates as many as 2,000 KFC and 300 Pizza Hut outlets in China, has also been under pressure.

An anonymous Yum! official told Beijing Today Wednesday that the company is looking into the issue, and a plan to raise salaries is under consideration.

(See related story on page 7)



## From selling to leasing

Tomson Riviera, the most expensive apartment complex in China, has to lease its luxury apartments after lack-luster sales for years due to its artificially-raised property price of 110,000 yuan per square meter.

Located on the east bank of the Huangpu River in Pudong, Shanghai, the four-tower prop-

erty occupies an excellent geographic and business position.

For this practice, it has been accused by the housing authorities of reluctance to sell its apartments and keep them for still higher prices in the future.

CFP Photo

## Auto exports double in first half

Beijing (Bizjournal) – China manufactured 4.5 million automobiles in the first half of this year, up 22.4 percent. Of the automobiles manufactured, 241,000 were exported, with the export value up 110.7 percent.

Of the automobiles produced and sold, 3.2 million passenger vehicles were produced and 3.1 million sold, up 20.9 and 22.33 percent; 1.3 million commercial vehicles were produced and 1.28 million were sold, up 26.1 and 25.9 percent respectively.

## Peugeot rolls out 12 new models

Shanghai (Reuters) – PSA Peugeot Citroen, Europe's second-biggest carmaker, said on Wednesday it plans to roll out 12 new models in China by 2010 to help push sales in the world's second-largest auto market.

Peugeot, which last year sold more than 200,000 cars from its venture with Dongfeng Motor, aims eventually to sell one million vehicles in China.

## BoB launches Shanghai IPO, eyes HK

Shanghai (Reuters) – Bank of Beijing, in which ING Group owns 20 percent, launched its initial public offering on Monday.

Bank of Beijing, which plans to issue up to 1.2 billion local currency A shares, or 19.3 percent of its enlarged capital, is also considering to float the shares in Hong Kong, though details have yet to be decided, it said in a statement.

## BoCom applies to start HK share scheme

Hong Kong (Reuters) – Bank of Communications, the country's fifth largest lender, has applied to launch a scheme in Beijing to let native individual clients invest directly in Hong Kong securities, joining rivals in a groundbreaking scheme that is expected to herald an outflow of Chinese cash abroad.

The bank, known as BoCom, wants to kick off a pilot scheme in Beijing. BoCom International Holdings Chief Executive Tan Yueheng told reporters, joining rivals Bank of China in Tianjin and potentially ICBC in Shanghai.

## China Construction Bank may set Shanghai record

Hong Kong (MarketWatch) – China Construction Bank (CCB), China's second-largest lender, may list on the Shanghai Stock Exchange as early as this month, potentially raising up to US\$7.4 billion in what would rank as the country's largest domestic share sale to date.

The listing committee of China Securities Regulatory Commission will hold a meeting Friday to review listing plans by CCB. In a regulatory filing Tuesday, the Beijing-based bank said it plans to sell as many as nine billion shares.

## Mobile phones will be used first on Shenzhen Airlines

By Jackie Zhang

Shenzhen Airlines signed a contract with OnAir Co, a Swiss technology company, Monday, saying the two would promote technology to enable passengers to use mobile phones aboard airplanes in China.

Three Shenzhen Airlines planes will be first to install electronic equipment provided by OnAir, including GSM mobile communication facilities, satellite communi-

cations groupware and antennae. The cost to refit one plane is about US\$4.5 million. Before the 2008 Olympic Games, the three airplanes will be in service. By the end of 2009, all Shenzhen Airlines aircraft will offer the service.

Shenzhen Airline is the first company in China to enable passengers to use mobile phones. Passengers with international roaming service can make phone calls, send

messages and access the Internet.

CEO of Shenzhen Airline Li Kun said that, in the past, passengers were unhappy because they could not use mobile phones on board. "An investigation conducted by OnAir shows that 69 percent of the passengers wish they could use their mobiles aboard, and 94 percent of them hoped they could receive phone calls; 82 percent want to receive emails."

OnAir signed contracts with five European airline companies and four Asian companies already, including Shenzhen Airlines, to promote the technology.

OnAir is a joint venture of the South African State Information Technology Agency and Airbus. It offers broadband Internet connection services, including mobile phone's access, on commercial airline flights.



# Multinationals try to rebuild business image

By Zhao Hongyi

A number of multinationals have taken solid steps in an attempt to recover from negative images of corruption and reports of abusing cheap labor.

French retail giant Carrefour has opened a 24-hour hotline 021-5635 4911 to hear reports on staff corruption crimes.

Carrefour made the decision after eight Chinese managers were detained by police in corruption probes last week.

The punishment of the eight managers and the hotline installation have received overwhelming cheers from local suppliers who believe it will make the business transactions more fair and transparent.

Also this week, Siemens China opened an internal system called "Help Us" to encourage staff to report illegal behavior.

Reports said that around half of the German industrial group's business in China was tainted by bribery, but Siemens China president Richard Hausmann denied this.

McDonald's said it will offer a salary hike for more than 95 percent of its employees in China by 12 to 65 percent, a move that may redeem the fast food giant's reputation as a company accused of underpaying its staff.

The payment adjustment is the first ever since McDonald's invaded China 17 years ago.

McDonald's, along with KFC and Pizza Hut, has been underpaying their part-time staff in the southern city of Guangzhou by up to 40 percent below the local statutory minimum wage of nearly US\$1 an hour.



Foreign brands are under pressure to follow market rules and exhibit morality. CFP Photo

## Comment

### Result of social progress

It is a result of the development of China's social supervision system and the growth of people's consciousness of social injustice.

Just depending on public relations campaigns to build up corporate image is no longer adequate in China, where the legal system is being updated and industrial criteria are catching up with the world's standard.

— Wang Lingyi, professor, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

### Multinationals need to be good players

Transnational companies were once considered good business examples in China, but many have been found attempting to test the limit of Chinese laws and ethical principles. They will lose the most in the end.

— Peng Xizhe, professor of social science, Fudan University

### Innumerable fees

I'm a supplier and was forced to pay innumerable fees, such as entrance fee, code fee, displaying fee, printing fee, promotional fee, training fee, entertainment fee, damage fee, ads fee, sorting fee, monitoring fee and payment fee. And they took my money without offering any receipt.

— IP:60.30.5.\*(Tianjin)

### Carrefour is not alone

Look at the domestic shopping malls, Wal-Mart, Century Mart, Sunning, Gome. The cause of corruption is the corruptive culture. Nothing to do with the brands.

— IP:218.97.251.\*(Beijing)

### It's a culture of "under the table" rules

There are too many "under the table" rules in China. If you don't charge the fees, like the consultancy fee Siemens charges, you cannot survive in your business. Don't believe the foreigners are all good rule followers. They are just smarter in doing business.

— IP:125.35.11.\*(Beijing)

### Where are the market rules and moralities?

Over the past 17 years, McDonald's and KFC have seen huge expansion in China. Under great media pressure, they have finally realized the error of their ways and have given pay raises to their part-time employees. Where are the market rules and morality?

— World Brand Lab

### What about the treatment native companies give to their employees?

We cannot accuse only the foreign companies of using cheap labor in China. Think of the domestic companies and enterprises. Are they paying more than McDonald's and KFC?

— Jin Xiuwen

### Sophisticated markets have their rules

In a sophisticated market economy, salary hikes are always expected due to inflation, company profits, individual capability and employee tenure. Gradual salary increases become an engine driving enterprises to perform better and better.

— Dodo crying

(Source: <http://news.sina.com>)

# Agreements on return for charity funds in Henan sparks debate

By Jiang Xubo

The provincial charity federation in Henan Province introduced a written agreement in mid-August, demanding that beneficiaries present a written promise to pay back society. The request has stirred up considerable debate.

The Henan Charity General Federation recently launched a charity fund with a one-million-yuan donation from a local tea store, offering financial aid to disadvantaged college students across the province. Candidates must sign an agreement with the federation, which demands the beneficiaries donate a sum of money, on a voluntary basis, after they graduate and get a job, so that the federation can help more people. They can also choose to pay back society by taking part in charitable activities.

"The agreement will help to foster the beneficiaries' char-

itable spirit, their sense of duty and social responsibility. It will also help to encourage them to help others in need," Cui Guangwen, head of the federations' fundraising department, said.

Only 13 of the 400 students, who made the federation's list of qualified candidates for the charity fund, signed the agreement, fewer than it expected. The federation blamed its lukewarm promotion campaign for the project's unpopularity.

"Since people offered me money to fund my study when my family could not afford it, Of course I will offer financial aid to people in need when I am able to do so. Otherwise, it would be ungrateful," Zhang Ping (alias), from Zhengzhou, one of the recipients, said.

The agreement also raised the public's concern that the agreement would alter charity funds into a type of business

loan. However, the federation was unwayed.

"We know the country will inevitably attach laws to charity operations. Even if the agreement goes against the law, we will make amendments to it and still adhere to the practice," He Zhanhe, chief for the federation's project department, said. Zhan maintains the practice will foster charitable spirit.

A local trade union in Xiangfan, Hubei Province, canceled financial aid to five college students from disadvantaged families in mid-August, when the benefactors complained that the students acted ungrateful. The students allegedly failed to write a letter or make a phone call to express their gratitude. It's the first academic year of a four-year period, in which the benefactors have promised annual donations of between 1,000 to 3,000 yuan per student.

## Comment

### The practice is valuable

It makes sense to set certain requirements for charity fund recipients, as long as the requirements come from charity organizations and encourage a sense of social responsibility.

— Wang Wencheng, Huazhong Normal University

### Compulsory agreement means mental burden

People should not expect to be rewarded for their charity. Otherwise, it is not charity.

Kind people will always do good deeds. A compulsory agreement does nothing to promote charitable spirit; it only places heavy mental burdens on the recipients.

— yql120

### Charity organizations should offer funds for free

Charitable organizations' funds come from donations, which means they are free for

the organizations.

So the organizations should allocate the funds to people in need, for free, as well.

— jiaawang76

### The agreement makes sense

You have to pay people back for their aid. People who cannot accept this idea are not entitled to any charity funds.

The agreement makes sense. It just wants to ensure that people remain grateful.

— anonymous

### Charity funds are not educational loans

Are there any differences between charity funds and educational loans? Recipients are asked to donate money no less than the funds they received initially, yet educational loans are interest free.

— blackheart

(Sources: Oriental Daily and 163.com)



# US students learn to manipulate acupuncture needles in the capital

By Jiang Xubo

Eighteen students from the US are receiving two weeks of acupuncture clinical training in a Beijing traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) hospital, which started Monday and makes up part of their studies for acupuncture and TCM in the capital.

"Push the needle into the body, but don't make it too deep..." Yu Xiaogang, director of the Medical Center of Acupuncture and Massage at the Beijing Hospital of Integrated Traditional Chinese Medicine and Western Medicine, said to his foreign students while performing treatments on a woman.

Dinah Blue, an alternative medicine major, stood beside the bed with two of her schoolmates, concentrating on the tiny needles.

Blue and 17 other students from the Ohio-based American Institute of Alternative Medicine (AIAM) are on a basic study schedule of eight hours a day, Monday through Friday, in the acupuncture outpatient department of the hospital, learning Chinese medicine diagnosis, differentiation of syndromes, techniques and recent research on acupuncture, thanks to AIAM's union with the capital's TCM powerhouses.



Kristin Dundrum learning acupuncture at the ear from Dr. Yu Xiaogang, her tutor.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

"I don't like western medicine any more. It just focuses on pills or surgery. I tried acupuncture before. It cures a lot of things that western medicine cannot. Acupuncture makes people feel better without side effects. And it's all natural," Blue said.

Yet, it was not easy to study TCM, especially for Blue, a western medicine nurse for 25 years.

"I now have to forget all that and learn a whole different way of thinking about medicine. That's the most difficult thing for

me," she said.

But still, she sees a bright future, and plans to set up her own clinic in her small hometown in Kentucky after her three-year-study course at AIAM. "There is no acupuncture there. But people are believing in it more and more. They tell their friends about it once they have tried it," Blue said.

"They work really hard and ask a lot of questions," Yu said, "I am happy to know that acupuncture is attracting more and

more people from around the world, it surely helps spread the essence of TCM."

The students will continue their study tour for two more weeks in the second part of this month at Guang'anmen Hospital, another powerhouse of TCM in the capital.

"It is an opportunity of a lifetime for people who are interested in practicing acupuncture for a living," Kristin Dundrum, who also hopes to set up her acupuncture clinic, said.

## Geisha master brings Kabuki to China



Kabuki master Sakata (left) has brought Japan's most spectacular theater art to China.

Photo by James Wang

By Han Manman

Expats always come to China to see Peking Opera and understand Chinese theater tradition, and Kabuki is a must for foreigners who to understand Japanese theater. This week, Kabuki master Sakata Toojuurou, has brought Japan's most spectacular theater art to China with its first stop in Beijing.

Sakata is the representative figure of Kabuki, the Japanese "national treasure." The reason lies in the fact that the Geishas who can perform it are few. This 76-year-old senior can, not only play both the male and female

clothed characters, but also do it for two continuous hours.

During the two-day show in Beijing, Sakata is presenting two classic masterpieces featuring an elaborately costumed dance piece. His role transforms from wife and elegant lady to the wild lion eidolon. From his lively step, it's very hard to believe he is a senior.

According to Sakata, Kabuki has been listed as world heritage by UNESCO. Even if it is an old art, it's audience appeal is still very big. "We always play 25 days in a month and there are always two shows in a day," Sakata said. He said he is also

very happy to see more and more Japanese youth beginning to take an interest in it. "They realize understanding their own country's culture is very important for their future development," Sakata said.

Sakata also hopes Chinese youth will have an interest in Kabuki. He said, although China and Japan are neighbors, sometimes, the two countries seem to be far apart. "Art can shorten that sense of distance between the two countries. From our performance, I hope the Chinese will have more understanding of the Japanese culture."

After the Beijing show, Sakata will take his drama group to Shanghai, Hangzhou and Guangzhou.

Kabuki is known as one of the world's greatest theatrical art forms. It has captivated and inspired audiences for more than 350 years with its visual splendor. It is unique in its stunning portrayal of beautiful women by male onnagata actors. A full ensemble of singers, shamisen players and percussionists will provide exciting musical accompaniment. Kabuki is total theater – a complete experience of music, dance and drama.

## After 50 years, two German engineers revisit workplace

By He Jianwei

Two German engineers who had worked for the 718 factory will revisit their home ground to meet their first elected factory manager on September 28 at the 718 factory's 50th anniversary during the 2007 Beijing 798 Creative Cultural Festival.

The two engineers, Hans Becker and Peter Dobras, were the directors of workshops in the 718 factory, Michael Kahn Ackeremann, the director of Goethe Institute Peking said.

Becker, now 79, was the director in the 311 workshop and will revisit the 718 factory with his wife; while Dobras, 80, was the director of the 313 batch plant, Ackeremann said.

More than 150 engineers and designers worked at the 718 factory 50 years ago and this area has become the result of the cooperation between China and Germany.

"We found the names of the two engineers on the letter of agreement of employment signed by the former Prime Minister Zhou Enlai," he said.

It's hard for them to locate the engineers and designers. Most of them died and only a few are still alive. After the reunification of Germany, some moved to the area formerly called West Germany.

"We have tried our best to find them through the former East German newspaper. The other clue comes from the Chinese workers who worked in the 718 factory, because some of them have kept in contact with the German engineers over the years," he said.

The area occupied by Beijing 798 Art Zone today was once the address of the Beijing North China wireless joint equipment factory – namely, 718 factory – built during the first five-year plan, which was ratified by the former Premier Zhou Enlai and constructed with the help of the former Soviet Union and former East Germany. The factory was designed to be built in the area of Jiuxianqiao in 1952 when there was no industrial foundation at all, and was eventually constructed in 1954.

At that time, the vice-president of former East Germany, Fred Oelssner, led the project and finished it with technology experts, equipment and product lines from all of former East Germany. Since there were no factories of the same size in that area, Oelssner organized a post-project aiding team of the 718 factory with experts from 44 institutes and factories in former East Germany. The 718 factory is of typical Bauhaus style with a perfect combination of practicality and precision.





Hungarian Prime Minister  
Ferenc Gyurcsány

Photo by He Mei

# Hungary PM urges people to share culture

By Huang Daoheng

"Economic and business affairs are not what life is all about. We should fully share each other's culture, and let people touch and be more familiar with each other's heritage," Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány said Tuesday during a press release at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

The premier, who arrived last Sunday, was on an official visit from September 2 to 5 as a guest of his counterpart Wen Jiabao.

## Sharing culture

This is Gyurcsány's second visit to China as Hungary's prime minister. During his

stay, he attended the opening ceremony of the Hungary Festival at Zhongshan Music Hall Sunday night.

"There are few things in life as wonderful as culture," Gyurcsány said. "Our key objective is to introduce Hungary and bring her closer to the Chinese people."

A series of Hungarian activities will be held in major Chinese cities between September 2007 and April 2008 as a milestone in bilateral relations, the prime minister said.

## Opposing EU embargo

The premier said he would oppose any actions by the European Union (EU) to ban the

import of Chinese toys into the European market, saying it's not "fair play."

"Unqualified goods should be banned from the market, and producers should be held responsible. But a blanket ban of all the products from a country is not fair," Gyurcsány said.

He suggested the Chinese government advise its producers to follow EU regulations, which are set to protect all consumers.

The premier said the main reason some Western countries are so suspicious of China is their own anxieties about the country's rapid economic and social growth.

Nevertheless, the mainstream maintains respect. Most countries in Europe and the world at large hail China's recent achievements, Gyurcsány said.

## Impression

Referring to the first impression of China, the premier said he was surprised by robust changes in everyday life. "Chinese people work hard, and everybody is looking for new opportunities to reach a better life," Gyurcsány said.

"The growth of China's economy in the past 20 to 30 years has convinced me that the 21st century will be China's century," he said, adding that Europe has a lot to learn from China.

## EU seeks cooperation on competition policy

By Han Manman

The EU will follow China's new anti-monopoly law closely for fair implementation, including a willingness to get tough on violators, EU Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes said Wednesday during her Beijing visit.

"I am very pleased that the visit coincides with the adoption of China's first comprehensive

anti-monopoly law. This is an important first step towards an effective competition regime," Kroes said.

The commissioner said China is embarking on the next phase of its competition policy effort, which is application and enforcement. "I have made clear my interest in closely following their plans to enforce the Anti Monop-

oly Law, and in particular, the organizational framework for applying the rules in practice," she said.

"The Chinese economy and the people of China will benefit from the implementation of a sound competition policy, as will any company seeking to do business in China," Kroes said.

The commissioner said open

markets benefit both European and Chinese companies. "In the EU, which has one of the most open markets in the world, we firmly believe that further opening and liberalization of the Chinese market is the right way to create reciprocal trade and investment opportunities for both EU and Chinese operators," Kroes said.

The Standing Committee of

the Chinese National People's Congress passed the country's first anti-monopoly law on August 30, which will take effect August 1, 2008. It marked the end of a 13-year legislative process.

"I understand that the Chinese government is undertaking a major effort to design and implement enforcement mechanisms before they enter law," Kroes said.

According to the European Commission, Kroes's visit takes place in the framework of the EU-China Competition Policy Dialog, a policy exchange mechanism established in 2003 whose primary objective is to establish a permanent forum for consultation and transparency between the two sides, and to enhance the EU's technical and capacity-building assistance to China regarding competition law.

After visiting Beijing, Kroes will travel to Dalian to attend a World Economic Forum.

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# Beijing Playhouse does community theater in town

By Gan Tian

American boy Billy Hung will never forget his 34th birthday. On Wednesday evening, all the crew and cast of *Guys and Dolls* at the Beijing Playhouse sang happy birthday cheerfully to him when they were preparing for their last rehearsal at the Canadian International School. The Broadway musical debuts this Friday.

The cast and crew were all selected through open auditions in July. The Beijing Playhouse decided to put the Broadway musical, "Guys and Dolls," into a community theater setting, so Chris Verrill, the executive director of the theater, selected about 70 crew and 30 cast members to perform.

Hung had been in Beijing for only five months, and had spent three months with these particular "guys and dolls." "At first, I was just excited," he said, "but later I learned that I should put more into it. I love it here. It was tiring but I saw myself growing with the others. When people act, they are like kids. When people are like kids, age and culture don't matter anymore."

Ye Xia was very special in the cast as she had been pregnant for five months. But that didn't stop her from attending rehearsals five times a week with the rest of the cast. She is a professional musical singer. After she became pregnant she couldn't be on stage. "But here, you feel very relaxed. No one came to me and told me that I couldn't



Actors and actresses are ready for the debut.

Photo provided by Beijing Playhouse

be on the stage with a baby in my body," she joked, "and my baby will certainly be happy with the musical, too."

Adam Hass, who plays the main role in the musical, was working in a US public relations company. "Sometimes it was really hard for me. I finished work at

6pm and came directly to rehearsal at 6:30pm, with rehearsals three hours long and five times a week. The theater was my entire social life. You have to be part of this."

Though the cast was from all over the world and contributed different ideas all the time, according to Verrill, this variety made the

musical creative and fun. "Community theatre is always a good way to make friends," he said.

The cast will part ways immediately after the show is over at the end of September, "but everyone here became friends and surely we will stay in touch," Hass said.

## Green wood product guide released

By Annie Wei

To introduce more green living to the majority of Chinese consumers, Greenpeace delivered 10,000 shopping guides for wood materials to Beijing's fall real estate trade fair yesterday.

The shopping guidebook classifies common wood products into four sections: recommended, acceptable, avoidable and disaster. Greenpeace hopes consumers will select green products when shopping for floors or furniture.

In recent years, with the booming real estate market in China, consumers' demand for wood furniture and wood products are increasing.

However, Li Yifang, forest project manager from Greenpeace, said, "The sources of many wood products are not environmentally friendly. Some wood species are very rare, and some others are essential to the continued existence of a forest and the wild animals living there, as well as the original residents living in the forest."

The purpose of releasing this guidebook is to help consumers decide wisely what kind of wood products they should buy, in case they purchase products from illegal logging operations.

## A Night of Laughs at Beijing's Improv Bilingual Workshop

By Annie Wei

When the cameras and lights are on at Jiangjinjiu Bar, a Xiangjiang-themed music bar between the Drum and Bell tower, nothing comes as a surprise. Several TV stations have arrived to shoot a short program focusing on Beijing's Improv bilingual workshop.

At around 8pm, about 20 people settle in and the workshop starts. Participants break off into one or two groups – English speakers and Chinese speakers, and then the activities lead to a performance: someone from the audience calls out a random suggestion, and the performers have to quickly act out a scene inspired by the suggestion. Laughter constantly erupts during the two-hour workshop.

Jonathan Palley, one of the experienced members, explained that improv is based on suggestions from audience, and then the improvisational troops act out scenes.

"Improv is about being obvious, observing what is happening around you, building upon what other people say and telling stories. Improv explores creativity and teamwork. It's being on stage and being creative," Palley said.

Beijing Improv started in November of last year. At first, there was only an English group, joined by native-English speakers



Hu Xin, second from left, and Jonathan Palley, first from right, are facilitating the workshop.

Photo by Wei Ying

who found a common interest in the improv-acting style.

Vinny Ng, a Chinese-Canadian troupe member, said Beijing Improv has three sub-groups, the English group, which was also the original Beijing Improv troupe, a Chinese performance group and the bilingual workshop. The English and Chinese group has a fixed membership. Only the bilingual workshop is open to the public for new people and beginners.

Hu Xin, a Chinese woman working in media, came across the group and tried to persuade them to set up the bilingual workshop and expand the improv-style theater in to the Chinese community.

Ng and his sister Lynne, members of Beijing Improv, agreed. "Since we are in China, it only makes sense," Ng said. Though the language barrier is difficult and challenging, they soon realized that improv acting in the Chinese language drew from the same basic fundamental skills as in English.

So far, Beijing Improv has launched three big shows. Their last show, "Caught in More Illicit Acts," in Yugongyishan in February attracted more than 300 people.

Beijing Improv continues to prepare more shows for the future. They are looking for more people who are interested in joining.

## Events

### From Indonesia with love

A benefit dinner presented by Beijing's Indonesian Group. Indonesian food, dance performances, music, an auction and prizes galore. Profits will fund education projects for disadvantaged Indonesian children.

Where: Grand Ballroom, Swissotel, No 2 Bei Chaoyangmen Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 6pm, September 8

Cost: 400 yuan

Tel: 6553 2288

### Green Yard Organic Dairy Farm tour

Yanqing County, a two-hour drive from Beijing, is one of the world's best cattle-raising areas. Join the Beijing Organic Consumers on a trip to Green Yard Organic Dairy Farm in Yanqing, where you'll learn about how eating organic benefits you, society and the cows.

Where: Departure location to be determined.

When: 9am, September 10

Cost: Free

### Green Drinks

Green Drinks is an informal opportunity to meet up with like-minded individuals who are interested in the environment, sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, and social and environmental justice issues.

Where: Stone Boat Café, southwest corner of Ritan Park, Chaoyang

When: 7pm, September 11

Cost: Free

Tel: 6501 9986

### Illustrated talk: Chinese Clothing from 1860-1930s

Cui Puquan, a scholar who studies traditional Chinese health, art and old Beijing food and life, will review the history of clothing worn by average citizens from 1860 to the 1930s.

Where: Room 201, Chinese Culture Club, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8pm-9:30pm, September 12

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

### Tafari at the Bookworm

Levi Tafari is a Rastafarian performance poet from Liverpool bringing his own particular brand of creative expression to Chinese audiences for the very first time. With the support of the British Council, Levi delights audiences at the Bookworm with his lively work.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, September 9

Tel: 6586 9507

(By He Jianwei)



# Water! Water! Everywhere in capital's downtown



Beijing's dragon boat competition is held frequently in Yanqing.

CFP Photo

By Gan Tian

Canoeing and kayaking athletes from all over the world have experienced Shunyi Rowing Canoeing Park. It is said the park will be in commercial use after the 2008 Beijing Olympics. If you can't wait that long, here are some places for you to row, row, row your boat or enjoy canoeing.

## Canoeing

Houhai Canoeing Sports Center is the most popular canoeing place in town. It provides you with the best equipment and professional training courses. Pay 400 yuan for the membership and you go canoeing ten times here. Call 6401 2664 for details.

If you don't want a membership, renting a canoe is 60 yuan per hour. There are many fans' organizations and associa-

tions gathering here to do sports activities. You can join them and save money. Ask their leader whether or not you are allowed to play with them, and, if so, usually it costs you only 45 yuan.

## Sailing

Though it is not on the sea, you can still do sailing in the Houhai areas. First, check weather conditions – if you see the willow strips are blowing at a 45-degree angle or more, you can sail.

You will need professional training if you are green. Call 6401 2664 at the Beijing Golden Sail Houhai Water Sports Center for more details.

## Dragon boat

You can try dragon boating if you go to Houhai with a bunch of friends. The dragon boat can carry 20 persons but you have

to sit with another person whose weight equals yours.

There will be a "team leader" to guide you if you are an amateur. If you get enough experience, you can join their amateur dragon boat team and go to other cities for competition.

It will cost you only 30 yuan for one time. There are players at 7pm every Wednesday and 10am every Sunday, even if it's raining – rowing dragon boat with your teammates in the rain is also exciting. 6401 2664 is their telephone number.

## Cruising

For boat cruising, you can take a trip along the river from the Summer Palace in the suburb to the Beijing Exhibition Center in the downtown area.

The river winds through the

most famous water parks, lakes, and scenic views in the city. The most extraordinary part of cruising here is viewing the willows along the banks in Purple Bamboo Park.

Taking a one-way trip from Kunyuhe River to the Summer Palace will cost you 60 yuan, and from the Beijing Exhibition Center to your destination costs 40 yuan. The price doubles if you need a round-trip.

If you get more than ten friends together, you can just rent a whole ship and enjoy a trip for the entire night, costing 2000 yuan – a good price and it's worth it, 200 yuan each person if go Dutch, you can enjoy the scenic bank views of Beijing wherever you want to go for a whole night.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyang@ynet.com](mailto:weiyang@ynet.com)

**Since I moved to Beijing in April, I haven't received any telephone or water bills. Do you know why?**

Normally, telephone bills come every month and the water bill comes every two months or three months, depending on how your compound management office arranges it. The phone company will call you when it's time to pay your bill, and the compound management office will send a staff member to check your water meter and invoice you within a week. Then you go to the bank to pay them.

**Does anyone know where I can buy an HIV and STD self-testing kit in Beijing and what the Chinese name for it is? Or where I can get 100 percent anonymous testing?**

An HIV/STD self-testing kit is seldom found in any pharmacy in Beijing, but you can get the testing done at the Chaoyang Center For Disease Control and Prevention (25, Hua-weili, Panjiayuan, Chaoyang). If you are a foreigner who plans to obtain a work or study visa in China, you must have a complete medical examination including HIV and STD testing.

**Where does one sign up for birth control prevention in Beijing? Are the implants available here, as well? And how do you say "birth control pills" in Chinese pinyin?**

You can get birth control pills easily in any Chinese pharmacy and the cost is less than 40 yuan per month. There are two or three different brands. It's called *biyunyao* in pinyin. For implants, please consult a doctor at a hospital for more information.

**I saw some people using a Segway in the office building where I work. I also want to bring my own into Beijing from overseas. Is there any big problem I should consider first? Should I register it as a car in China after I get it here?**

You should ask an import and export company for detailed procedures. We called a segway dealer to ask whether the Segway belonged to any kind of vehicle class like a motorbike or car. The dealer said they imported it as high-tech equipment. You can find a dealer in Beijing through the company's website for more information.

(By Wei Ying)

## Air France KLM guarantees plane tickets in best price by cash voucher

By Gan Tian

The leading European airline group, Air France KLM, introduced their online program "Best Price Guarantee" last Saturday, which helps the online flyer get the lowest-priced plane tickets.

If you happen to be an Internet devotee and a flying businessman at the same time, you can try [airfrance.com.cn](http://airfrance.com.cn) or [klm.com.cn](http://klm.com.cn) to purchase your air ticket; the company assures you'll get the

best fares available.

How do they guarantee that? If you find an equivalent offer at a lower price at any another website before midnight on the same day of your purchase, you can get a cash voucher with a value equivalent to the fare difference plus 500 yuan provided by Air France or KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

You can enjoy the Guarantee only on the condition that the

difference for each ticket purchased online is equal or more to 100 yuan, and, of course, you can only enjoy this on economy class tickets purchased online directly with Air France or KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

KLM also provides you with the most convenient check-in system, as well.

Log in to [klm.com.cn](http://klm.com.cn), click "online boarding," and then input your E-ticket and flight

number, and you'll get automatically confirmed. Internet check-in will let you select your own seat and print out your boarding pass allowing you to enjoy a relaxed trip.

Please note, you can only enjoy this system 30 minutes to an hour before departure, for USA-bound flights. You don't need to worry if you are with, or without luggage. There will be excellent service upon arrival.

## The 17th CPC congress welcomes foreign media

By Chu Meng

The 17th CPC National Congress will be convened in October in Beijing. Foreign journalists are welcome to register with the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) before October 9th to cover the event.

For foreign journalists accredited in Beijing and their Chinese assistants, please register at the Journalists Accreditation System

on the International Press Center's website ([ipc.fmprc.gov.cn](http://ipc.fmprc.gov.cn)). Please confirm with the Information Department of the MFA by fax, naming the journalists applying for accreditation.

For foreign journalists on temporary assignments in China, please register with the Information Department of the MFA via the local Chinese embassies, consulates or the

Offices of the Commissioner of the MFA of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong SAR or Macau SAR, by presenting your application letter provided by the relevant media.

The schedule of the CPC National Congress and the method for collecting accreditation badges will be issued on the International Press Center website later. Liu Jianchao,

director-general of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry, said they were encouraged to see an increasing number of reports by foreign journalists.

## Contact Persons and Telephone numbers

Xue Xiaoting, 6596 3856

Qian Xiaosong, 6596 3339

Fax: 6596 3850

Email: [xws1a@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:xws1a@mfa.gov.cn)





BPF 2007 will have two stages, including the main stage, Rock for China Stage, and the side stage, Hit FM Stage, Jason Magnus, president of Rock for China Entertainment Ltd and one of the organizers of the festival, said.

This year's cast is the biggest one, compared to the last two festivals, and includes an American rock band, American hip hop band, punk music's iconic artist, a representative of Brit pop and China's rock and roll godfather, Magnus said.



Xie Tianxiao



Cui Jian

Photos provided by Rock for China Entertainment Ltd

# Ignite the f rock &

## Beijing Pop Festival 2007

### Ramones, punk music's iconic artists

One of punk music's most iconic artists, Marky Ramone, the most visible surviving member of the legendary Ramones and their longest serving drummer, will play the Ramones' greatest hits.

Marky Ramone is the longest serving drummer of the Ramones, widely regarded as the greatest punk act of all time. Ramone played with the group a total of 15 years and recorded 11 studio albums with them including the classic 1978 *Road to Ruin* album as well as performing on singer Joey Ramone's solo record before Joey's untimely passing. Ramone was inducted into the Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame in 2002 along with the rest of the Ramones.

Currently, Marky Ramone tours the world keeping the legacy of this great punk act alive. His band in Beijing is none other than The Queers – a legendary punk act themselves.

After wrapping up his tour in South Africa, he will come to Beijing. "I have experienced millions of tour shows and I want to bring the Ramones' music to the people who love us. I mean, rock music is always on the road," Ramone said.

The name of their band was created by bass player, Dee Dee Ramone. "We love the Beatles very much. When Paul McCartney checked into hotels, he used the name 'Paul Ramone.' So, Dee Dee said, hey, let's call ourselves the Ramones."

China has a deep-rooted punk scene that cherishes the music of this band. The set list, which will be a complete catalogue of all the Ramones' most well known anthems, will be another landmark occasion at this year's Beijing Pop Festival. It will feature 28 classic Ramones' tunes. "I hope all the audience will shout the Ramones' famous slogan, 'Hey! Ho! Let's Go!'" Dee Dee said.

### Brett Anderson

As the only non-US international act on this year, Brett Anderson, the lead singer of the pop legendary group, will perform.

Suede was one of the leading acts of the pop movement though their music is more intimate than their classic rock album *Man Star*, and *Coming Up* about British music in the 1960s.

This will be Brett's second appearance in 2002. His solo album and solo material from his previous band, Suede, will be performed.

The organizers contacted Brett Anderson together the festival. "I know Brett Anderson, Placebo and Supergrass performed at the festival."

When he recalled his previous experience, he remembered some of the festival's success and I hope to see that again, he said.



### Mando Diao, the Swedish king of tours

Mando Diao – the Swedish five-piece, two-lead singer, stylish, explosive, yet sweet and harmonic band – will perform on the side stage.

Mando Diao seems to have doubled their European live audience every month since they started playing together. After performing this year at Germany's largest festival, Rock Am Ring, in front of 80,000 die hard fans, they will probably experience another doubling of their audience and a whopping challenge.

With 200 concerts a year, they have played nearly every corner of the world. During 2007, Mando Diao further extended their impact on all music lovers in the world by recently playing at the legendary Coachella Festival in the US, followed by a sold



Public Enemy

out headline tour and a performance on *Late Night With Conan O'Brien* only to head back to Europe for another summer package with at least 30 festival performances.

It seems that touring is more attractive than recording in studios to Mando Diao. They love to perform and get all that energy out. They record quickly so as to get back on the road and communicate with their fans again.

"Also, when we tour, our songs develop in the right way. I like we make the musical dough in the studio and then throw ourselves onto the stage in order to bake the songs. The stage is a great oven," Bjorn Dixgard, the voice of Mando Diao, said.

They will introduce a new song called, *To China With Love* at this festival. "The song is about a guy we knew in our hometown who loved China so, in our song, we sent him to China. This song will represent our thanks for being invited," he said.

### Nine Inch Nails

One of the most important and innovative bands of the past 20 years, Nine Inch Nails (NIN), will close out the festival on Sunday night. Nine Inch Nails' founder and visionary is Trent Reznor, a one-man music industry who writes, plays and produces all of NIN's material. He is such an influential figure in the world of music that in 1995 Time Magazine named him one of the 25 most influential Americans.

### Other big names

#### Cui Jian

China's very own rock 'n' roll godfather, Cui Jian, will perform on Sunday. "It's a great opportunity for international music circles to get acquainted with Chinese rock," Cui Jian said. Known to all as Lao Cui, he is recognized as the father of rock and roll in China and has been compared to Elvis, Dylan and Springsteen by the western media.

#### Beijing Pop Festival

Where: Chaoyang Park

When: September 8-9

Admission: 200 yuan per day, 380 yuan two days (in advance); 250 yuan per day (show days)

For tickets: 400 818 3333 or piaowutong.com



# Flame of rock

## 7 kicks off this weekend

### on, Brit pop legend

International headliner and returnee to China, the founder and lead singer of Suede, a Brit pop band, will play a set mixing solo and Suede material. Suede, a legendary British band during the 90's Brit pop era, their music was always somewhat richer and more sophisticated than contemporaries. Albums like *Suede*, *Dog* and *Over the Moon* are examples of all that was wonderful about the 90's.

Anderson will visit China following Suede's tour. The show will feature a mix of Suede material and his well-received self-titled album released last year.

Anderson when they started to put on a show. "I know Ian Brown sang on the 2005 stage and performed in 2006," Anderson said.

Anderson's performance from four years ago, Anderson said. "They were filled with excitement and a great reaction again this time on the Beijing stage."

### Public Enemy, most influential rappers

Public Enemy (PE), celebrating their 20th anniversary, will close the show Saturday night with a career spanning set.

A group, whose musical style and incendiary delivery have earned them universal critical acclaim and millions of fans throughout their career, PE continues to blaze musical and technological trails with new songs, pushing rap music into the future, all the while keeping their musical roots firmly intact.

They transcend the confines of rap and pop music, remaining one of the African-American community's most influential messengers, one of digital music's greatest champions, and a rare group whose lyrics are dedicated to analyzing, uplifting and empowering humanity.

The group burst onto both the rap and pop music scene in 1987 with their debut album *Yo! Bum Rush the Show*. "Everything beneath the sun is new. We called ourselves 'The Rolling Stones' of rap music. They have rocked for 40 years, and we still learn from them. We will never follow the fashion trends," Chuck D, one of the members in PE, said.

"I know there is a group of people really loving rap in China, so I am expecting the performance here will excite the audience and make them move their bodies," he said.

By He Jianwei

The flame of rock and roll will be ignited this weekend with a two-day outdoor music show at Chaoyang Park. Beijing Pop Festival (BPF), one of the biggest outdoor music festivals in Asia, will feature a show of international and domestic headliners this year. On the eve of the festival, *Beijing Today* introduces some of the big names and give you a preview of the upcoming festival.



Brett Anderson



Marky Ramone



Nine Inch Nails



Project planning: look&listen ad agency

## "SOME OF THE ARTS DON'T MOVE YOU"

### "BUT THE PRICE CAN SCARE YOU TO DEATH"



from an economical point of view

DeLiao is a General Art Centre for every country with 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> of space for art. Organizations from over 30 countries have expressed an interest in the DeLiao project.

We already have strong ties with art and culture organizations from England, Germany and France, and have become the biggest stage for international art and culture in Beijing, China. DeLiao will be a window for cultural exchange between China and the world.

DeLiao is located in Yizhuang, Beijing.

100,000 square meters is not necessarily enough, but in China it is already unique.

DeLiao General Art Centre Including (100,000m<sup>2</sup> main building 100,000m<sup>2</sup> parking lot 1 million m<sup>2</sup> park)

86-10 5971 5588 [www.deliao.com.cn](http://www.deliao.com.cn)



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Creative Fashion Accessories  
Creative Material Products  
Creative Authorized Products

Original Art Products

Creative Studios and Workshops



# A Tale of Love and Darkness

An Israeli family's story and a history of Judaism

By Han Manman

Israeli literature giant, Amos Oz, for the first time, paid a two week visit to China to introduce readers to his work, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*.

"It's a story of my family: father, mother and me. At the same time, it is also a story about the Jewish dream of returning home and that dream's fulfillment," Oz said of the new book. Tragic, comical and utterly honest, the book is a great family saga and a magical self-portrait of the writer who witnessed the birth of a nation and lived through its turbulent history.

*Love and Darkness* is a novel in biographical form. Oz in his book tells both the unfortunate story of his own family and the history of a nation. His parents and grandparents used to be well-educated European Jews, but were deported to Israel in the 1930s.

Years later, his mother killed herself, and the effect on him was tremendous – an event which had a profound effect on the sensitive, intelligent boy who grew up in Jerusalem during the last years of the British mandate and the war of independence.

He leaves the constraints of the family and the community of dreamers, scholars and failed businessmen and joins a kibbutz, changes his name, marries, has

children and becomes a writer as well as an active participant in Israel's political future.

Oz said the book reflects Jewish life in the new homeland, which is a combination of clashing cultures and lives, suffering and perseverance, love and darkness.

"The Jewish people are very difficult to understand because they are different from anyone else around the world. Every country has its own land. For thousands of years, Jews had no land and no home. For thousands of years, their only dream was to return home," Oz said.

"Now, Jewish people have found home but not yet found peace. I believe peace between Israeli and Palestine can happen. Though I can't tell the exact time, the day will come soon," he said.

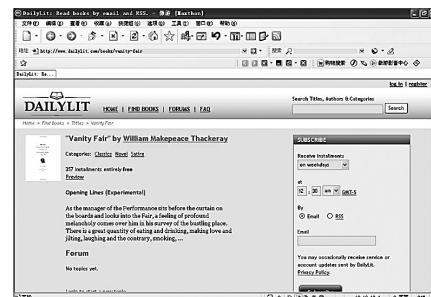
To date, Oz has published 11 novels and several books of short stories and essays. His works have been translated into as many as 30 languages, and he was awarded the literature and art prize in France, Germany's Goethe Prize, the Israel Prize for Literature and nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

*A Tale of Love and Darkness* is widely recognized as Oz's peak work, and is thought to be the best-selling literary work in Israeli history.

# Darkness



## Break it into pieces



By Gan Tian

I don't usually read classics. For one thing, buying *War and Peace* takes half my monthly salary. For another, tackling such a bulky, heavy book is a blow to my confidence and patience.

Dailylit aims to be a solution to these problems. The website's name is a combination of "daily" and "literature." It aims to make sure there's a bit of the classics in everyone's day.

First, think of a book you want to read. I have considered reading *Vanity Fair* for a long time, but still lack the courage to survive its difficult language. Type the book's name into the search bar, and the results come out with William Makepeace Thackeray's masterpiece broken into 357 parts. You can also search by title, author and category.

The engine will give a brief introduction to the

book – with previews – and then you can enter your e-mail address for automatic delivery.

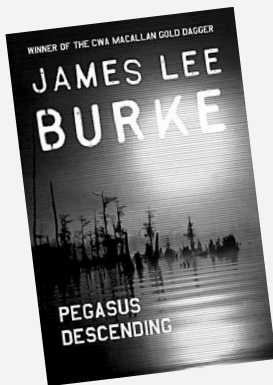
For example, if I choose *Vanity Fair* and request delivery on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:40pm, it will send me a confirmation e-mail. As soon as you confirm your address, you will start receiving pieces of the book each day at that time.

This is extremely convenient for lazy guys like me. I'm a magazine fan, and like something new every day. Dailylit helps break traditionally "heavy reading" into a light series like a serialized novel or comic. Now I can enjoy Rebecca's adventure three times a week.

Unfortunately, there are some mistakes in typesetting and spelling, and the site only offers classics, so there is nothing available from the last 90 years.

## CNPIEC Bookstore's Recommendations

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following US best sellers for *Beijing Today* readers.



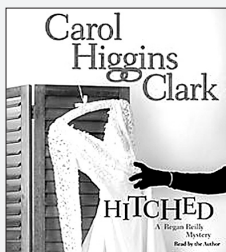
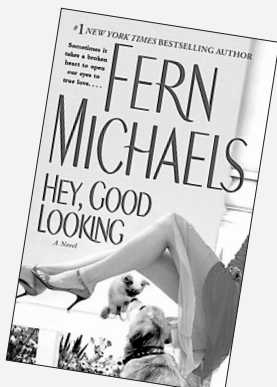
### Pegasus Descending

By James Lee Burke, 512pp, Pocket Star, 80 yuan  
Louisiana Deputy Sheriff Dave Robicheaux is still guilt-ridden for having failed to save Dallas Klein's life in Florida 25 years earlier. When Dallas's daughter appears, grown-up and gorgeous, and shows an interest in Dave's best friend, hard-drinking, down-at-the-heels Cleve Purcel, Dave becomes suspicious of her motives.

### Hey, Good Looking

By Fern Michaels, 384pp, Pocket, 80 yuan

Darby Lane and Russell Gunn were inseparable friends since their days in the Horseshoe, the wonderful Baton Rouge neighborhood of their youth. After graduate school, a tragic accident shatters their lives. Her long journey to healing brings her closer to Russ's brother Ben. Suddenly love blooms in the place of grief.



### Hitched

By Carol Higgins Clark, 400pp, Pocket Star, 80 yuan

Arriving at a bridal salon to pick up her dream gown, Regan Reilly discovers the designers bound and gagged. Four dresses are missing, and a fifth is in shreds on the floor. With just a week before her wedding, Regan takes the case, meeting an unusual mix of brides and grooms-to-be, or not-to-be. Meanwhile, Jack is determined to crack a perplexing series of rainy-day bank robberies before his upcoming nuptials.

(By He Jianwei)



# Reinvent the city in Moving Soundscape

By He Jianwei

The noise of the motors and the cries of the vendors are the sounds of the city. Maybe you track urban life in photographs or keep the city in your diary. Some audio artists are attempting to capture sounds of the city you may have missed before.

Their project is called "Moving Soundscape," and it includes recordings of routes in the city.

Transportation has become an essential part in daily world communications. The city moves, changes shape and evolves from past to future every day, and our bodies move with its flow. While not everyone owns an automobile, being in one allows us to move freely and discover the secrets behind urban shape and form.

In this year's Get It Louder (GIL), the curators held a special event for sound art. Three groups of artists recorded their works from various city travel routes. The work can be heard while taking a guided tour.

## Where is the sound?

"Moving Soundscape" is a special project which combines sound art and urban geographical research. "We have invited some Chinese sound artists to do research on the peripheral areas of each of the four cities within a 40-minute drive, to sample and analyze each city's architectural styles, functions and noise index, and to create a new sound work based on this data, then install the work in a car," Ou Ning, curator of GIL, said.

The audience sits in the car and moves according to the itinerary set by the artist. They can listen to the artist's sound work and get a visual impression of the cityscape.

The 2007 GIL sound art project connects the veins of various artists to explore a development question. "If we were to leave our traditional stages and spaces, leave our set time and place, leave our stereo speakers and records, where would sound be?" Yan Jun, curator of the sound art project, said.

With the rise of local and international information exchange, this question is growing more and more complex. "Sound finds its voice through the course, and hopefully the musician after it, will find himself as well," he said.

Sound rises out from music and begins pushing boundaries as its own unique medium, expressing our reality and our hopes. "Silence and noise and all the different sounds emanating from our daily lives change our customs of listening and affect our everyday sensations and imagination," he said.

"Sound art" is a new concept in China and has only been around for a few years. Born of chaos, the scene thrives on wild energy. China's first sound art pioneers were contributors to the underground rock scene.

## The sound is moving

The sounds flood the city in our everyday lives. The Moving Soundscape series presents sound art inspired and created through travel in an automobile: a "city on the move."

The idea can be traced back to the 1960s' Dadaists and Fluxus artists, or even earlier, to 1913 and Luigi Russolo's, *The Art of Noise*. Or maybe it's just an instinctual response to the affliction of city life.

"Finding a new angle to explore, communicate and participate with our city, or, investigating our bodies in motion, observing it in a enclosed space, letting it feel whatever it feels. These are all possibilities," Yan said.

Think of it as an outing – you only need your ears to get in the car. You can hear the humming from the vehicle, the city breathing and after that, it's the artists' creation. They might collect sound bytes from the corners and alleyways of the city, might turn the scattered and sprawling street scenes into poetry to read aloud, might use new technology to sustain and prolong the senses and imagination, or just make noise.

## Concrete Poem

In Beijing's GIL, artists from Taipei performed "Beijing Concrete Poem." The poem is proper for reciting, so the artists wrote down the guide board, signboard, advertisement and slogans to appear along the road, and one of the artists read.

I sat in the car and listened to the artist's reading. The left speaker is what I could see on my left hand side; the right one is the characters appearing on my right hand.

As the different characters combine, you can find out what's in a city: the most frequently appearing restaurant was Chengdu Xiaochi; the common building was a bank; there were several wreath and tablet engraving shops down town.

"Not only the sound from a construction field can be called noise – silent characters are also noise," Xu Yazhu, one of the artists in Beijing Concrete Poem, said.

"It's an experiment to let people hear the sounds of the city that they might miss. We can't record everything we see on the road, but it's a new way to envision the city," she said.

Audience can listen to artists' works sitting in a car and following the itinerary.

Photo provided by Modern Media



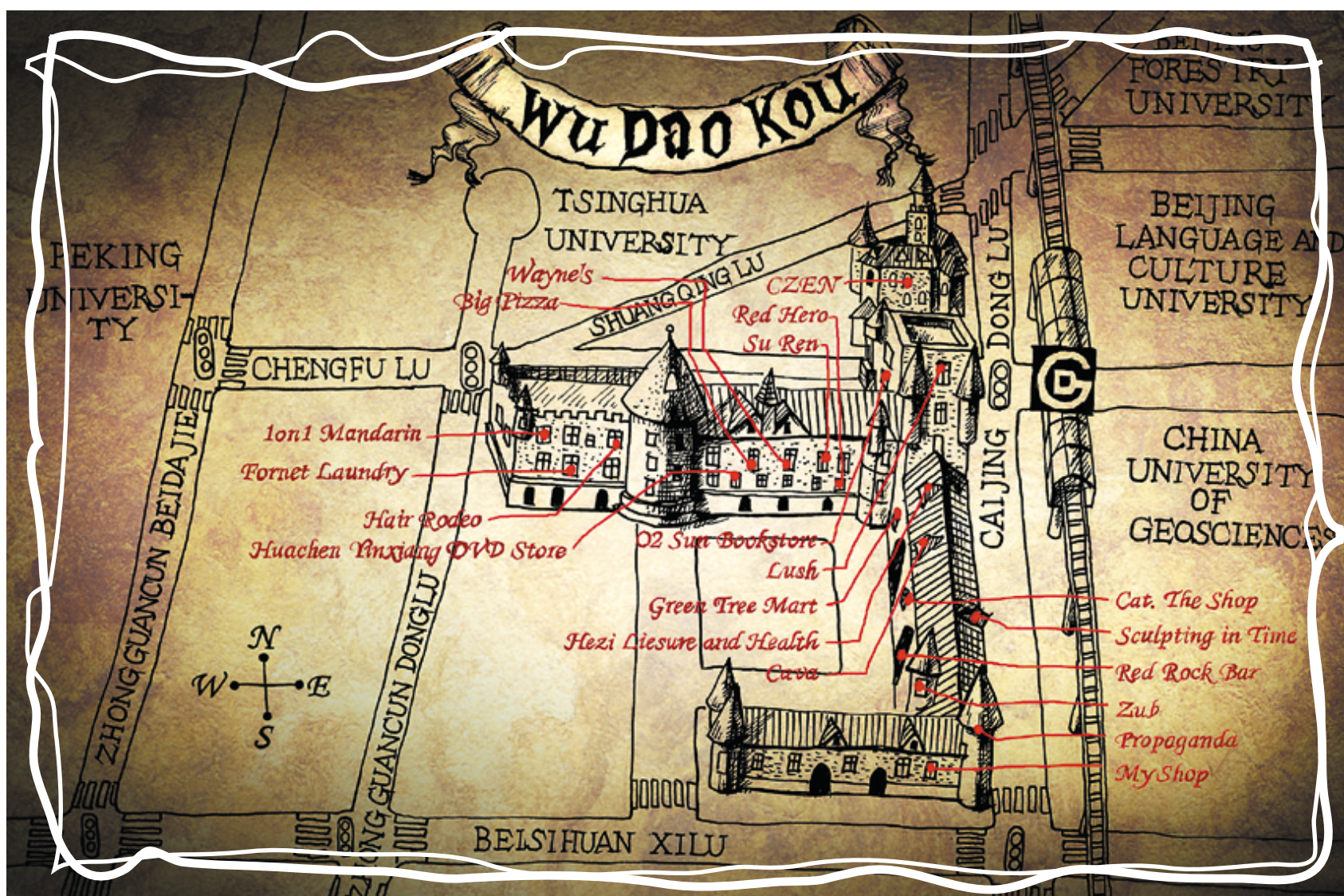


Illustration by CFP

# Stay young in Wudaokou, college wonderland

By Gan Tian

Located in the center of Haidian District, Wudaokou is nicknamed 5DK among its fans. Two of China's best universities, Beijing University and Tsinghua University, are located in the west and north. In the east, they connect to Xueyuan Lu, or Campus Road, where more than ten of the top campuses are situated. That's one of the reasons why Wudaokou will keep you forever young.

Wu means five and "daokou" is a word describing the crossroads where a train passes. Following suit, this area is where the fifth corner Beijing-Qinhuangdao train passed. Nowadays, there is still evidence of the train tracks, like a rusty sword cutting into a modern landscape.

Searching online, you will be amazed at how many Wudaokou lovers there are. It naturally attracts young people with its academic style, but also upper class workers have fallen in love with its cafes, restaurants, bookstores and neon lights.

Looking around in the street, you can find blue-eyed beauties, muscular black guys and dark-haired Asians. Beijing Language and Culture University is here, so the

many overseas students have brought the area an international flavor.

Sitting in a little cafe, you may be unaware that the young man sitting at the next table is the manager of some international enterprise – yes, this is also a hub for talent. When Google and Microsoft moved here a few years ago, they supplanted Zhongguancun as a second Silicon Valley in Beijing.

Sometimes I wonder why people love Wudaokou so much. In reality, this place is as common as the crossroads in Sanlitun or Houhai. One year after I graduated from a campus near here, I went back to conduct interviews, and I suddenly discovered the reason why.

For some people, especially students graduating from here, it represents youth, a dream worth fighting for, a passion for learning, or a life in the elite class. One of my favorite songs says, "It's so hard to get old without a cause; I don't want to perish like a fading horse; youth's like diamonds in the sun, and diamonds are forever." This is the best description of Wudaokou.

My youth lies here. What about your's?





Photo by Tian Yufeng

## Sculpture in Time sculpts time

By Gan Tian

You have to climb a staircase to get into the Sculpture in Time Cafe. On the first floor, I saw a bulletin board where many finding-language-partner notes bombarded my eyes. This suddenly reminded me of those days when I was still on campus.

The name Sculpture in Time has a special meaning. Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky said that when he was filming, it was just like sculpting something into his films. "It's a little similar to what we want to do here," Nell Chen, the shop owner said. "It is a place where memories are sculpted."

Sitting in the cafe, you will feel time slowly passing by. Many students come here to study for a whole day. I was so surprised to find out that the guy sitting at the next table was an exchange student from Oxford University, and the girl behind me had been managing three companies since her graduation. I suddenly realized this cafe was a place of dragons and tigers, Canglongwohu, as the Chinese idiom goes.

Sculpture in Time is very friendly to customers. You feel very comfortable here. I felt I could communicate with everyone. The coffee was nice, but the atmosphere was even nicer.

The cafe also holds events frequently. Speak Easy is an English corner for people to make friends, and Poetry Land is where poem lovers can read or write poems and share with each other, even if you are not a poet.

Life here is just like sculpting something in time. As I reminisced, I felt so fulfilled and happy.

### Sculpting in Time

The cafe hosts events every week and you can enjoy an English corner here with nice coffee and make new friends.

**Where:** Room 1, Building 12, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian

**Open:** 9am-12:30am next day

**Tel:** 8286 7026

**Cost:** 30 yuan

## Korean Chef's miracle of flour



Photo provided by Czen Asian Noodles Bar

By Chu Meng

The Korean community in Wudaokou is served by a number of excellent and authentic Korean eateries, with Czen Asian Noodle Bar and Tous Les Jours Bakery among them.

Operated by CJ, the largest food company in Korea, Czen and Tous Les Jours both produce healthy, freshly-made flour-based foods. They are connecting as a restaurant, and have just opened their fifth outlet in Beijing Sogo Shopping Mall.

Czen Asian Noodle Bar features several unique innovative noodle items which are drawing a younger audience. I tried a three-in-one noodle plate of stir-fried green tea noodles with beef, cold coffee noodles with cheese and shrimp and pumpkin noodles with green peas.

The most attractive part of Czen is its focus on healthy ingredients. Green tea, coffee, pumpkin, carrot, seaweed, black bean, and herb and garlic noodles are available in a vibrant array of colors,

providing nutrition with limited fat and calories.

They also serve other Asian favorites such as Thai fried rice. Diners appreciate the delicious taste of Czen's House Signature Pumpkin Salad and Korean fruit wine very much. For western diners, cheese and salad sauces are added to some rice dishes, creating something delightfully different.

Unlike traditional small and medium-sized noodle houses that operate in residential areas, Czen is a large, roadside establishment. It looks cozy and a fragrant aroma of flour and butter hangs in the air. The decor is modern, with plants, bright French windows and colorful paintings on the walls. The restaurant offers wireless Internet access.

### Czen Asian Noodles Bar

**Where:** 35 Chengfu Lu, opposite to the north exit of Wudaokou Light Railway Station

**Open:** 7am-11pm

**Tel:** 6256 0753

**Cost:** 50 yuan per person



Photo by Blake Harris

## Tequila and youth at Propaganda

By Gan Tian

Josh Wu went into ecstasy when I mentioned Propaganda. "That's where I spent my spare time when I was at Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU). I went there nearly three times a week. So I have many fond memories."

Propaganda was the first pub to play hip-hop music in Josh's memory. "I remember that was back in 2003. Beyonce had just won the Grammy, and Propaganda began to play her song, 'Crazy in Love,' at that moment because it was in fashion."

At first, Propaganda only attracted foreign BLUC students. Gradually, Chinese students followed the trend and started frequenting the place and that's

how Josh became a Propaganda fan. However, the main attraction was the good taste in music which was highly recommended around the community. Eventually, there were even many Sanlitun guys coming to Propaganda for fun.

Josh said it was a place to create memories. "For us poor students, we could only order a five-yuan Tequila," he smiled a little bit. "It was a place where my campus life began to focus. Ah, careless youth. A series of related things happened after Propaganda nights. For example, I had to skip school, an occasional day, to catch up on sleep and, as a result, didn't hand in my homework on time. Blame it on youth."

Some would spend the whole night sitting on the

stairs of Propaganda, possibly dumped by a boyfriend, some quarreled and fought with each other, some girls were escorted home by unknown Korean guys. "That was my time when I was young," Josh said.

That was a pub! And, yes, it is still crowded there. It's a place we can enjoy as long as the night is young and so are we, right?

### Propaganda

**Where:** 100 meters north of the east gate of Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian

**Open:** 8:30pm-midnight

**Tel:** 8286 3679, 8677 6689

**Cost:** 20-100 yuan for tickets



## An afternoon in Cava Town

By Gan Tian

Cava Cafe has a Chinese name signifying that it is a "town," not just a cafe. Yes, and in this town, the grass is green, the sky is blue, and everybody is friendly.

It's a sunny afternoon. You don't feel like reading or watching DVDs at home. You come to Cava. Stepping onto a wooden staircase, you suddenly experience an ancient feeling invading your ears, nose, and eyes. All decorations are wooden, resembling a Southern American town. You hear French melodies like "Cesaria Evora," "Westbam Right On," or "Morcheeba," which you might, otherwise, have never heard. Then you peruse the menu and decide on a tall, cool beer. You feel your whole world is centered around this sunshine-filled afternoon.

The beer choices here are the best. You can find any beer from around the world in Cava. Hogaarde white beer, Chimay Trappist beer, Duvel Golden Ale, Boddingtons, Beamish Stout and, no worry, if you are only accustomed to Qingdao – that's here as well. I must remind you that the German beers are in limited supply. They only keep them for seven days. So, if you have a desire to taste German spirits, come in the early morning and ask, without hesitation, for a glass of German Stout or Light.

If you are a coffee fan, you won't be disappointed at Cava. It is said that, when the Belgium Embassy celebrates its festival, they always get a coffee maker and machine from here so trust them.

Like a hobo in the snow, a lonely piano sits in the inside room of Cava begging for attention. Any customer can join it on stage and show off his or her skills tickling the ivories. "Many foreign students go here and play for other customers, and after they finish, there's always big applause," Gui Zongjun, the shop owner, said. Of course, anyone can give it a shot regardless of your ability.

"I can safely say it is an 'art cafe' in Cava," Gui said with a glass of water in his hand, "sometimes people are too ambitious. But here, you can always find peace in your heart. We even once held a wedding for a French fellow and a Chinese girl here." That's Cava, a place you can always do what you want.

An afternoon in Cava Town will bring everything you desire. Trust me.

### Cava Town

**Where:** Building 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian

**Open:** 10am-2am next day

**Tel:** 8286 7297

**Cost:** 30 yuan



Photo by Tian Yufeng



Photo by Tian Yufeng

## Breathe it in

By Gan Tian

There are 24-hour McDonald's, 24-hour supermarkets, 24-hour pubs and 24-hour classrooms, but have you ever heard of 24-hour bookstore? O2 Sun Bookstore is the perfect stop for those mid-night cram sessions.

It is the first 24-hour bookstore in town. Located in Wudaokou, the main university area, the bookstore offers something to satisfy everyone. Through the doorway is a shelf which shows the current playing CD establishing the store's background music. O2 cares about telling you the little details.

The books cater to bourgeois taste. The left side of the store has all the top magazines in China, including News Weekly, Global People, TOM and Sanlian Life Weekly. There are also Chinese versions of current best sellers in the center, like The Dogs of Babel or The Picture of Dorian Gray. On your right, there are many comic books available if

you just want to unwind.

The towers of books in some stores can be a little intimidating, but not in O2. With its romantic music, the moment you arrive, it's like looking at your bedroom's bookshelf.

"I miss O2," Liu Xuanhua, a Peking University graduate, said. "Its delicate decorations, romantic music and quiet people make it the perfect place to go when you need a break." If you have nowhere else to go, head for O2 – even if it's in the middle of the night. You're sure to meet like-minded people.

Everyone knows that O2 is oxygen – the source of life. The store views knowledge as oxygen, and like oxygen, aims to create an atmosphere of learning. It aims to be the most inviting bookstore in town.

### O2 Sun Bookstore

**Where:** Building 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian

**Open:** 24 hours

**Tel:** 8286 3032, 8286 3033

## Black and red Lush

By Gan Tian

Lush is upstairs from the O2 Bookstore. Contrasting O2's warmth, Lush is quite cold and mysterious.

The logo is set in red and black, as if to suggest this is a great place to cool down after hours of study downstairs. They provide special mixed drinks here, just in case you need to cool down a little faster. The live Xinjiang band here attracts customers with their central Asian guitars and drums. The keyboardist is hot enough to turn any guy's head.

Some say that Lush is a student pub. Look at the menu and you'll see why. The costs are very low – as low as 30 yuan for imported beer. That might be some students' style, but when I was in school, I wanted to at least look mature – even if I wasn't. But some guys are into that cheap but sexy look.

### Lush

**Where:** 2nd Floor, Building 1, Huaqingjiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian

**Open:** 24 hours

**Tel:** 8286 3566

**Cost:** 30 yuan



Photo provided by Lush



## Bars

### Lush

Lush provides customers with a study spot in the day and a relaxed environment at night. Sandwiches and special desserts will satisfy anyone's appetite. They also host foreign events.

Where: Second Floor, Building 1, Huaqingjiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 24 hours  
Tel: 8286 3566

### Propaganda BEIJING TODAY

The night club Propaganda draws in students with popular tunes.

Where: 100 meters north of the Huaqing Jiayuan's east gate, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 8:30pm-midnight  
Tel: 8286 3679, 8677 6689

### Red Rock Bar

The cheapest and best fried chicken in Wudaokou is available here.

Where: North of the east gate of Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 4pm-2am the next day  
Tel: 8286 3665

### Zub BEIJING TODAY

The bar's high-quality cocktails are unforgettable. The modern décor and lighting takes your breath away.

Where: basement next to Propaganda, north of the east gate of Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 10pm-midnight  
Tel: 8286 6240

## Cafes

### Cava BEIJING TODAY

This homey cafe is the perfect place to relax with friends. Imported beers are a must-taste.

Where: Building 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 10am-2am the next day  
Tel: 8286 7297

### Sculpting in Time BEIJING TODAY

The cafe hosts events every week and features an English corner where you can meet friends and enjoy coffee.

Where: Room 1, Building 12, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 9am-10:30am the next day  
Tel: 8286 7026

## Book-store

### O2 Sun Bookstore BEIJING TODAY

This book store attracts the student crowds with a great selection of Chinese language books. There are also some good English books sold here.

Where: Building 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 24 hours  
Tel: 8286 3032, 8286 3033

## Grocery Stores

### Green Tree Mart

The store is typically Korean. Pocky sticks and Confume Korean hair dyes are sold here. They also offer free delivery.

Where: Building 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 24 hours  
Tel: 8286 3729

### My Shop BEIJING TODAY

My Shop offers the very best hard-to-get items from all over the world, like corn tortilla chips from Mexico.

Where: No 101, Building 13, east gate of Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 9am-midnight  
Tel: 8286 7240

## Massage

### Hezi Leisure and Health

A 90-minute foot massage here costs 38 yuan and includes neck, arms, back, thighs and a bucket of herbal tea.

Where: Building 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 24 hours  
Tel: 8286 3988

## Shops

### Cat The Shop BEIJING TODAY

This little shop has a collection of strange goods from all over the world - Thai silver jewelry, textiles, and bags ... you name it.

Where: Below Sculpting in Time, southwest of Wudaokou Subway Station  
Open: 12:30am-10pm  
Tel: 8286 7021

### Huachen Yinxian DVD Store

Find the most popular Chinese and Western DVDs here.

Where: Building 7, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 10am-11pm  
Tel: 8286 3121

### Red Hero

The clothes here combine hippy-chic with Chinese qipao. All clothes and bags are pure cotton, good quality and very affordable.

Where: Building 2, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 9:30am-9:30pm  
Tel: 8286 5621

### Su Ren

Wallets, purses and shoes for men and women are specially designed.

Where: Building 2, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 9:30am-9:30pm

### Wayne's

Collared shirts from brands like Esprit and Jack & Jones are sold here.

Where: Building 5, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 9am-9:30pm  
Tel: 8544 2623

## Hair Salons

### Hair Rodeo

The Korean-run salon has many famous stylists. Asian hair perms are their strong suit.

Where: No 301, Building 7, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 10am-9pm  
Tel: 8286 7811

## Language Schools

### 10n1 Mandarin

This Mandarin language center has excellent teachers working in small classes of less than three students per session.

Where: No 503, Building 7, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 8am-10pm  
Tel: 8286 3272

## Laundry

### Pornet Laundry

Drop your dirty clothes off here in the morning and pick them up next day.

Where: Building 7, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 8:30am-10pm  
Tel: 8286 7380

## Restaurant

### Big Pizza

This Chinese-run pizza shop turns out pies to rival any Western restaurant.

Where: Building G7, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 11am-2pm, 5pm-10pm  
Tel: 8286 3177

### Czen BEIJING TODAY

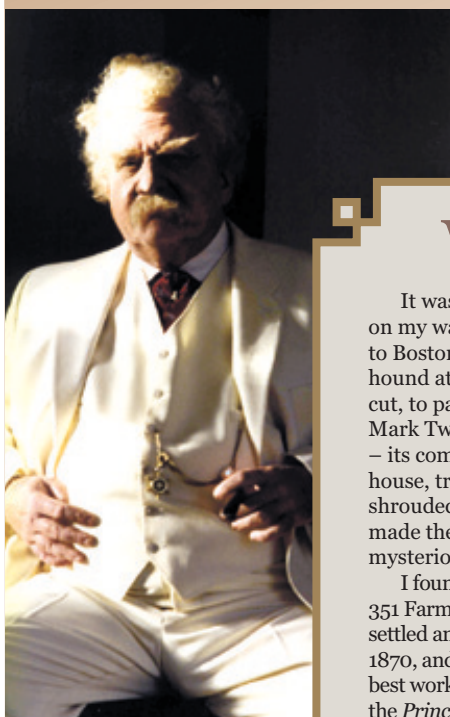
Though it is a Korean restaurant, it also sells Thai, Japanese and Chinese food.

Where: No 35, Chengfu Lu, Haidian  
Open: 10:30am-midnight  
Tel: 6256 0753

**BEIJING TODAY** refers to the locations where Beijing Today is available.



# A spiritual baptism at American writers' homes



Mark Twain

Twain's House with its pallets of brick work (the right)

By Shida Zhu

If you take a tour of the eastern US seaboard and have a literary interest, you may want to visit some American writers' homes there. The New England coastline may give you a new insights into their books. This week, *Beijing Today* selected a poet, singer, novelist of the Gilded Age, a transcendentalist philosopher and an essayist who represent the forking of American literature from English literature.

## Whimsical style of Mark Twain's house

It was a rainy, spring day on my way from New York to Boston. I got off the Greyhound at Hartford, Connecticut, to pay a special visit to Mark Twain's house. The city – its commons, the old state-house, trees and houses – was shrouded in a light fog. It made the home all the more mysterious and beautiful.

I found the Twain House at 351 Farmington Avenue. Twain settled and married here in 1870, and wrote some of his best works, like *The Gilded Age*, the *Prince and the Pauper*, *Life on the Mississippi*, *A Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur's Court*, the *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

I was struck by its bright red color, so warm and buoyant. The house is well-known for its architecturally whimsical style, bringing into bold relief the sense of modernity. In this design, architect Edward Tuckerman Potter expanded on the original Nook Farm house. Potter employed a vibrant palette of painted brick that reminds people of William Butterfield's work in England of the 1960s and traditional Alsatian designs of France.



The Twain House contains architectural elements that are technically different from each other. No two elevations are alike. The gables that are generally symmetrical are minutely different in their decorative treatments. The chimneys rise in striking contrast to the broad sweep of the deep porches.

The interior decorations of the house designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany are presented in styles from around the world. The Northern African, East Asian and Indian cultures are woven into an organic whole that set a global perspective for

the Gilded Age.

Thanks to Twain's insatiable taste for the new, the house was installed with a gravity heat system, where split flues to allow for windows over two fireplaces and seven bathrooms with flush toilets – cutting edge technology in his day.

**Where:** No 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT, US

**Season:** January through April and November: The Mark Twain House is open Monday, and Wednesday through Saturday 9:30am-4pm, and Sunday noon-4pm. The last tour begins at 4pm daily. Visitors should

allow one hour for the tour. The museum is closed on Tuesday during the off-season.

May through October and December: The Mark Twain House is open seven days a week, Monday through Saturday 9:30am-4pm, and Sunday noon-4pm. The last tour begins at 4pm daily.

The Mark Twain House is closed New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving and December 24 and 25.

**Cost:** US\$9 for adults (19-64), US\$8 for senior citizens (65+), US\$7 for youths (13-18) and US\$5 for children (6-12).

## Simplicity of Walt Whitman's house



We drove from New York to the Western Hill Farm in Huntington, Long Island, that Walt Whitman, author of *Leaves of Grass*, called home. We whisked past farms with lyrical charms, meadows and groves of crab apples that were so different from metropolitan New York

to arrive at a light brown, two story house.

There was a lawn in front of the house, covered with a lush grove of lilacs and fenced in with raw timber. It was a small, unpretentious hut that housed an old well with a wooden barrel hung at its railing – the perfect

rustic picture.

I was shocked by the simplicity. The floor was whitish from years of scrubbing. The staircases were narrow. If you are tall, you have to be careful that your head doesn't hit the ceiling. In the small bedroom, there was a bed covered by a dark blue, flowery bed cloth. A wooden cradle was placed beside the bed where the poet was born in 1819. It was here that he drew his inspiration from slaughterers, seamen, whalers and vagrants. It was where the "perfect mother" gave birth to him and raised him, as he later penned. From the salty wind of the Atlantic and the rustic farm, you may sense why this hot-tempered and sensuous "son of Manhattan" loved outdoor life, people and was so terribly

adventurous and optimistic.

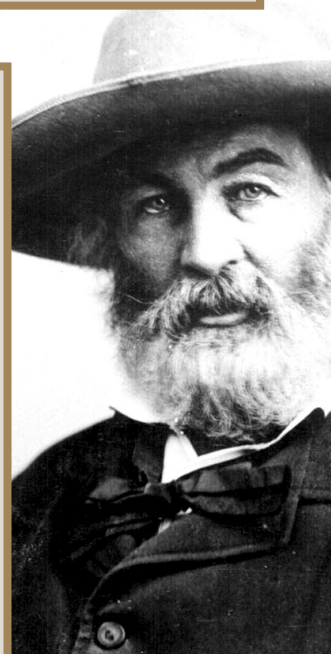
At the entrance to the second floor there is a statue of the poet – adorned in long, white hair and whiskers, one hand carrying a stick and the other in his pocket – carved from chestnut by Warren Wellok. The first print of *Leaves of Grass* with a green cover published in Brooklyn in 1855 is displayed here.

His *Leaves of Grass* got the attention of Emerson, who was then in Concord, Massachusetts. Emerson wrote him to congratulate him on the start of a new career.

**Where:** No 246 Old Walt Whitman Road, Huntington Station, NY, US

**Open:** Wednesday to Friday, 1-4pm; Saturday to Sunday, 10am-4pm

**Cost:** free



Walt Whitman

The rustic house of the singer of America (the left)

Photos by Shida Zhu

Continued on page 21 ...



... continued from page 20

## David Thoreau's pond hut and Thoreau Lyceum



David Thoreau

The hut of the hermit at Walden Pond (the right)

Of all the men of letters linked to Concord, the most outstanding and eccentric was David Thoreau. In 1845, Emerson gave a few acres to Thoreau for his Walden experiment. Thoreau meant to withdraw from society and live in solitude to ponder the meaning of life. I took Highway No 126 and went into Concord woods, sided by chestnut trees, larches, elms and oaks. I climbed up a small hill, Haywood Peak, and from there I could see Walden Pond glittering under the sun. The wooden hut covered with yellow shingles was still there, standing in perennial solitude. The hut was encircled with marble. Thoreau moved there on July 4, US Independence Day, as "a man more American than anyone else." He planted beans on the land, which once grew wild blackberries and red bayberries. On the left side of the site, there was a tall heap of stones carried there by travelers from all over the world.

For Thoreau, living by the pond was an act of independence. He wanted to solve his economic problems by leading a simple life of subsistence farming, and, by proximity to nature, meet "the great



facts of his existence and live an uncommitted life open to spirit." At the end of his experiment, Thoreau finished *Walden*. In the book, Thoreau affirmed his faith in "the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor." His pioneer study of human-nature interaction influenced conservationists in later years.

I met a man from Acton dressed in a striped casual suit. He had just lost a lot of money on the stock exchange and came to visit Thoreau's hut as a reminder of what it means to exist.

I visited Thoreau Lyceum,

a two-story house painted gray and with white windows and doors. It was an exhibition of Thoreau's life. Two lamps in the Georgian bay window were permanently turned on, shedding light on a bust of the artist. Upstairs was a library devoted exclusively to Thoreau. Editions of *Walden* in Spanish, French, Russian, German and Japanese were displayed there. "Thoreau belongs to the world," the curator, an old lady with gold-rimmed spectacles, said. It was a pity that they didn't have the Chinese translation by Xu Chi.

This town was also home to Louisa May Alcott, writer

of *Little Women*. It was a two-story house painted in white, nestled amidst larches and pines. Next to it was Nathaniel Hawthorne's gambrel-roofed white-washed Old Manse with weathered clapboards that were overgrown in places with clumps of moss. It was much grander than Emerson's and Alcott's homes.

In Sleepy Hollow, a valley covered with lush vegetation, I visited Author's Hill, where Emerson, Thoreau and May Alcott are buried.

**Where:** Belknap Street, Concord, MA, US

**Season:** year around

**Cost:** free

## Waldo Emerson's house in the shades of elms



On a spring day I took an Amtrack, the "T," as the local Bostonians call it, from Boston to go 30 kilometers northwest out of the city. I arrived at Concord, a small and quiet town, at the confluence of two meadow-flanked streams forming the Concord River. It is by no means small in terms of historical importance, as it was the site of the first forcible resistance of American revolutionaries against British colonists, where "the shot heard around the world" was fired.

I first went to the famous North Bridge where the British who crossed the river were

driven back by minute men. In 1774, the first county council meeting to denounce the Coercion Act that deprived Massachusetts of its charter and the right to choose its own magistrates met in the town. The first and second provincial congresses defied the British authorities. Consequently, British troops occupied the town on April 19, 1775. The local minutemen removed most of the supplies and rebelled against British rule, opening the military annals of the American Revolution.

The house where US essayist, poet and transcenden-

talist philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson lived gave me better insight into the life and works of the great man. The house sat quietly, shaded by elms and with three red-brick chimneys pointing to the blue sky over a green-shingled roof. Emerson moved here in 1834 and married Lydia Jackson of Plymouth the following year.

The peaceful, rural life was essential to his work. As he described it to his brother in a letter, it was a simple place and it would become better when planted with trees and flowers. He published *Nature in Boston* in 1836, beginning a revolution in American thought. Nature reclaimed an idealist philosophy and put nature at the moral service of man. The radical, exploratory and optimistic Emersonianism ushered in an era of American individualism and confidence in American culture.

On a July morning in 1875, Emerson was awakened by the cracking sounds of a fire raging in the house. He jumped out of bed and ran into a downpour to ask neighbors for help. His neighbors arrived with barrels of water,

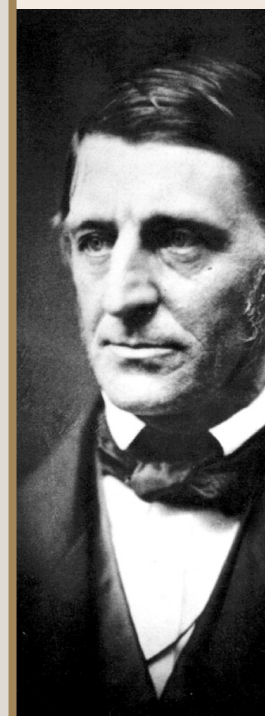
and the Concord fire-fighters came in no time. People tried everything to salvage Emerson's books and manuscripts before the house burned down. A friend of his, a doctor, raised US\$120,000 for him to rebuild: Emerson declined.

Not long after, he was accompanied by his eldest daughter to London, Paris, Rome and Cairo. He returned to Concord on his 70th birthday. When he got off the train, it whistled, and he was met by crowds of well-wishers. He was carried by the crowds to a horse-driven carriage before he had a chance to embrace his wife. The carriage whisked through an arch bedecked with fresh flowers plucked from the Concord woods amidst the singing of a children's choir. He was taken aback when he saw that his home had been rebuilt and his study restored. He went to the balcony and waved to the crowds, moved by their good will and sympathy.

**Where:** No 28 Cambridge Turnpike, Concord, MA, US

**Season:** closed November to mid-April

**Cost:** US\$7 adults, US\$5 seniors and students



Ralph Waldo Emerson

The books in the study of a most erudite philosopher (the left)

Photos by Shida Zhu



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**Chinglish story**

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at [gantian@ynet.com](mailto:gantian@ynet.com).

By Shida Zhu

An English journalism student once wrote a very interesting story about the drama of a grueling men's 800m race during an international athletic contest. The field was packed with athletic stars of international fame and the competition was fierce. In the last hundred meters, a Kenyan and an American were running neck and neck. At first, the Kenyan was the pace-setter, leading the way. The American was thrashing his legs behind the Kenyan, virtually breathing down his neck. In the last 20 meters, the lanky American pulled out all the stops and darted past the Kenyan. However, they were so close when they dashed across the finish line that it became a photo finish with a time difference of a mere one hundredth of a second.

The student's description of the race was good but finding the perfect English words to describe the excitement of the race's last few seconds eluded him.

"Did you ever think of using the word, 'home'?"

I asked.

He looked puzzled.

"Home? What does home have to do with the race?" he said.

I replied, "Your sports story can simply be titled, 'Drama in the Home Stretch.'"

The word, "home," in sports lingo, means the last part of a race leading to the finish line. So, you may say, "The runners had a drama-packed, neck-and-neck fight down the home stretch." It also means the finish line. For instance, "The American runner was home."

The word home can also mean a goal in soccer. When

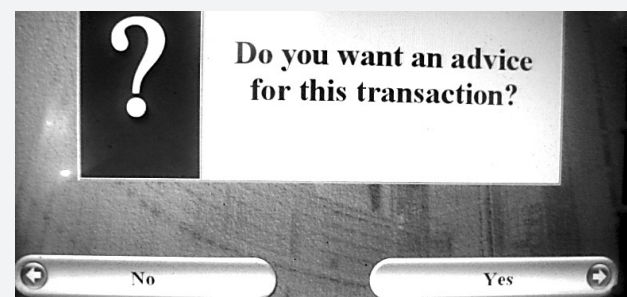


Beckham got a lobby from the midfield and kicked the ball into the Italian net, you may say, "Beckham, the soccer prodigy from England, slammed the ball home." Or, Zinedine Zidane of the French team, who played on the home court, flew through the air and scissor-kicked the ball home to a standing ovation from home crowd in the bleachers. Or, Diego Maradona, the Argentinian soccer talent of the century rose suddenly from nowhere and drove the ball home.

Thus, the magic use of the word, "home" in descriptive English sports writing can save a lot of time and unnecessary words.

**Chinglish on the way**

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to [gantian@ynet.com](mailto:gantian@ynet.com) together with your name and address.

**Want an advice?**

By Derrick Sobodash

You slid in your card, checked your balance, and withdrew some money. Everything looked good until the final question: enter panic.

"Do you want an advice for this transaction?"

What do you do? What kind of advice is it? What if it's bad advice? You better pick something in ten seconds or that friendly ATM will become a hungry, card-devouring beast.

Every ATM in China uses some variant of this message. Do you need an advice? Do you want an advice? Come on, I know you want an advice. Just take a damn advice!

Bankers, the "Chinglish on the Way" writer has some advice for you: it's a bloody receipt!

The first time I saw this message, I thought it was a neat idea the banks in China came up with. Like if you hit "Yes," it would print out stock advice on the latest hot trade.

Failing that, it must be a fortune or lucky numbers. The Bank of China says your lucky numbers are 4, 3, 11, 0, 6 and 66 – at least that would make picking those red and blue balls on the lottery tickets a bit easier.

Imagine my disappointment when the only thing that fell out of the machine was a huge piece of paper that just said "400.00"

Look, I understand the banks enjoy super-high social status here in China and they just may not be willing to use the same word for those little paper transaction records that supermarkets do, but that doesn't give them license to adulterate other words.

Sometimes, I feel like you guys are trying to confuse native speakers. After all, the "English" option doesn't appear till your machine has our card, and once the card is in, the option vanishes.

Truly sadistic.

**Blacklist**

*Beijing Today* has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

By Joe Edwards

**1. Life is like sculpturing something in time**

Most professional sculptors would laugh out loud at the verb which has been created in this sentence, "sculpturing." There is no such animal in the grammatical jungle. The noun form is "sculpture." To produce the verbal form, you cannot simply drop the "e" and add "ing." A little more chopping must be done. Eliminating the letters "u" and "r" from sculpturing gives you the correct form of the verb, that being, "sculpting."

**2. An afternoon here will bring you everything you want to you**

Yikes! What a mess this sentence is! The structure is terrible simply because of two unnecessary words, "to you," tagged on to the end of the sentence. Drop this word duo and you are in good shape

with the sentence reading, "An afternoon here will bring you everything you want."

**3. Like a rust sword cut into a modern world**

Two major problems here dealing with spelling and grammar. Has anybody deciphered what the writer is trying to say here? Firstly, the noun, "rust" when used as an adjective, is spelled, "rusty." Again, with spelling, it's "sword," not "sward!" And, to make this simile work, the verb "cut" needs a "ting" added. The corrected version of this phrase now reads as follows and is correct, "Like a rusty sword cutting into the modern world."

**4. We will make the audience exciting and moving their bodies**

The words "exciting" and "moving" are good words, but are paired incorrectly in this odd sentence. How will you

make the audience exciting? Give them different hairstyles and, possibly, a new, fresh attitude? Maybe they consider themselves exciting enough as they are! The verb the author is going for here is, "excite." And the verb, "moving" is completely incorrect in this particular sentence. A better sentence structure would be, "We will excite the audience and make them move their bodies."

**5. The group extended their impact among all music lovers**

The two words that are questionable in this sentence are, "extended" and "among." An impact of any kind is usually made upon or on something or someone, not "extended – among." The expression has been misused here. A better version would read, "The group made an impact on all music lovers."





# SPORTS ARENA

**WORLD CUP RUGBY HEADQUARTERS**  
**"HOME BREW SPECIALS"**




CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUAN HU GARDEN TOWER #1

朝阳公园桥北路北观潮国际大厦写字楼 | 5层 59283045 / 65381691 / 13901087774

## Friday, September 7

### Exhibition

#### Anish Kapoor Solo Exhibition

Where: Galleria Continua,  
No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm,  
until December 23  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6436 1005

#### Group Exhibition of Figure Painting



Where: New Art Center, No  
136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng  
When: Daily 9am-5pm, until  
September 25  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6526 8098



#### Group exhibition of Dong Shouping, Bai Xueshi, Lu Chen, Zhou Sicong

Where: Melodic Art Gallery,  
No 14 Jianguomen Wai Dajie,  
Chaoyang  
When: Daily 10am-4:30pm,  
until September 25  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6515 8123

### Movie

#### Eternal Summer

This gay-themed atmospheric drama puts a trio of melancholic Taiwanese youths to a test of love and friendship.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies,  
inside Kent Center, Anjialou,  
Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: 8pm  
Admission: 50 yuan  
Tel: 139 0113 4745



## Saturday, September 8

### Exhibition

#### Cheng Jianzuo Solo Oil Painting Exhibition



Where: Floor 4, Today  
Art Museum, No 32

Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 10am-5pm,  
until September 16  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5876 9392

#### Blooms of Frailty – Zhang Peng Solo Exhibition



Where: China Art Season,  
No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm,  
until October 6  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6431 1900

### Outdoor

#### Folk songs & music on boat at Lotus Pond

The event will be held on wooden boats on a peaceful lake west of Beijing. The lake is surrounded by bamboo and willows and you can float leisurely amidst lotuses and water lilies. The knowledge and folklore of various traditional Chinese musical instruments will be

introduced and narrated.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (Kent Center, No 29, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) at 7pm and return at 10:30pm.

Cost: 250 yuan (includes boating, bus and drinks)  
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

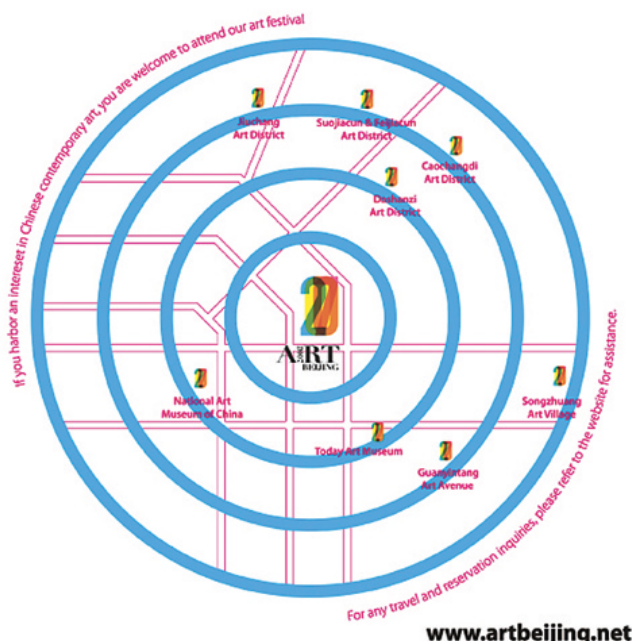
### Music

#### Tyskerhar – Electronic music band from Germany

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar,  
inside the drive-in movie theater park, No 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: 10pm  
Admission: 30yuan  
Tel: 8196 4820

## Art Beijing Contemporary Art festival

In September, there will be a full display of Chinese contemporary art



## Sunday, September 9

### Exhibition

#### Art Beijing 2007

Where: National Agriculture Exhibition Center, No 16 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 10am-7pm,  
September 20-23  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6509 6688

#### That Space • That Time – The Photography of Lu Xiaochuan

Where: 798 Photo Gallery, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 10am-6pm,  
until September 28  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6438 1784, 6437 5284

#### Zhao Xiaojia's Small Works Exhibition

Where: Highland Gallery,  
No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm,  
until October 16



Admission: Free  
Tel: 6437 7177

### Movie

#### Darwin's Nightmare

This film exams the ever-increasing strife between locals, suffering from the ravages of war in Africa, and those profiting from local fishing industries.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang  
When: 5pm  
Admission: 10-20 yuan  
Tel: 6553 2627

## Stage in October

### Dance

#### Light

Who: National Ballet of China  
Where: Tianqiao Theater, No 21 Tianqiao Beiwei Lu, Chongwen  
When: 7:30pm, October 1-4  
Admission: 80-880 yuan

### Concert

#### Love of Angel – Ali Wood Romantic Piano Concert

Who: Ali Wood  
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng  
When: 7:30pm, October 1  
Admission: 180-880 yuan

#### Bowfire's Virtuoso Violin Music

Who: Canada-based Bowfire demonstrates what the violin and fiddle can do in the hands of masters. Bowfire encompasses styles as diverse as classical, jazz, country, rock, old-time, Texas-style, bluegrass, gypsy, eclectic, Celtic, and electric.

Where: Ethnic Culture Palace Theater, No 49 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 2-3  
Admission: 80-880 yuan

#### The Phantom of the Opera

Who: China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra  
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Dajie, Xicheng  
When: 7:30pm October 3  
Admission: 80-880 yuan

#### Die Meistersinger von Nuremberg

Who: Edo de Waart and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, October 4  
Admission: 100-880 yuan

#### Russian Romances by Mischa Maisky & Lily Maisky

Who: Mischa Maisky & Lily Maisky  
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Dajie, Xicheng  
When: 7:30pm, October 17  
Admission: 100-880 yuan

#### The Nigel Kennedy Quintet – Blue Note Sessions

Who: Nigel Kennedy  
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang  
When: 7:30pm, October 18  
Admission: 180-980 yuan

#### Symphony Concert

Who: Gil Shaham, Shuilan and Singapore Symphony Orchestra  
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang  
When: 7:30pm, October 23  
Admission: 60-680 yuan

#### The 10th Beijing Music Festival Closing Gala Concert

Who: Lang Lang (Piano), Christoph Eschenbach (Conductor) and Orchestre de Paris  
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang  
When: 7:30pm, October 26  
Admission: 180-980 yuan

### Opera

#### China Premiere of Poet Li Bai Opera

Who: Composed by Guo Wenjing  
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang  
When: 7:30pm, October 9  
Admission: 100-880 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)